

THE AWARD-WINNING INDEPENDENT: EDITOR OF THE YEAR, CORRESPONDENT OF THE YEAR

THE INDEPENDENT

MONDAY 22 MARCH 1999 (1R50p) 45p

NEW SPORT SECTION

12 PAGES FEATURING THE BEST OF THE WEEKEND'S ACTION

Cannibal warriors feast on bodies of their victims

MUSLIM SETTLERS were beheaded and eaten yesterday in the latest round of a savage ethnic war on the island of Borneo. At least 73 people have died in the past week, and two men were murdered and dismembered yesterday morning during an attack on the north-western village of Suka Ramai, near Sambas.

Warriors carrying spears, rifles and machetes displayed a severed ear and a human arm and offered me hunks of hearts and livers torn from the bodies of ethnic Madurese, who have become the target of a large-scale ethnic purge. One man displayed and then ate a piece of cooked flesh, which he claimed to have cut from the body of a murdered man.

The killings have taken place in the remote Indonesian province of West Kalimantan, close to the border with Malaysia. Almost all of those who have died have been settlers from the island of Madura, east of the main Indonesian population centre, Java. For decades, land disputes and cultural differences have caused simmering tension between the Madurese and the other inhabitants of Borneo - principally ethnic Malays and the indigenous Dayak tribespeople. In February, they boiled over after a dispute about a bus fare and since then some 13,000 Madurese have fled or been evacuated to refugee camps in the regional capital, Pontianak.

Small numbers still remain in the Sambas area where they are being hunted down by Malays and Dayaks. More than 1,000 warriors, wearing headbands and carrying machetes, spears and guns, attacked Suka Ramai early yesterday morning, killing or driving out the remaining Madurese.

Those who escaped were pursued into the jungle from where shots were heard. Back in the village, their houses were looted and burnt down.

Hundreds of smouldering buildings now line the road between Sambas and the nearest significant town, Sintang. Malays and Dayaks have set up dozens of road-blocks at which they check cars for Madurese passengers. The small contingent of police and soldiers in the area has completely lost control of the situation.

On the drive back from Sambas to Sintang, a group of men at a road-block openly displayed a severed head with a cigarette stuck up a nostril. "We don't care about your race," said one man, brandishing a severed ear. "We don't care about your religion, Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Malay, Dayak, Chinese or Bugi - all are welcome here. We just don't want Madurese. All of the Madurese must leave."

Since the Asian economic crisis and the fall of President Suharto last May, there have been outbreaks of violence throughout Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous country.

Smiling killers, page 12

Serbs face the final countdown

BY STEPHEN CASTLE
in Brussels
AND MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

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Serbs drive out thousands page 11
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Robert Fisk Review page 5

RICHARD HOLBROOKE, the United States special envoy, will today deliver a face-to-face warning to President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia that air strikes against his forces are imminent, after Nato accelerated preparations for a massive bombardment of Serb military positions in Kosovo.

News of the mission came amid escalating violence in Kosovo itself and a warning from Nato that it has cut the time it needs to unleash air strikes from two days to just a few hours.

In Pristina, the Kosovo capital, four Serb policemen were shot dead after the patrol cars in which they were driving were ambushed. Ethnic Albanians living in the area said they saw four bullet-riddled police cars being driven back from the Gnjaj district, east of the city centre, followed by two ambulances with lights flashing. A few minutes later, six armoured personnel carriers, carrying masked Serbian police with automatic weapons, were seen travelling at high speed in the reverse direction. Elsewhere in the province, thousands of ethnic Albanians fled their homes as fears grew of a new Serb offensive.

Mr Holbrooke will today fly to Belgrade via Brussels where he will meet Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and his French counterpart, Hubert Vedrine, to discuss the message to be delivered to Belgrade.

The rhetoric from Washington was stepped up yesterday as the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, told Mr Milosevic that he "faces a stark choice: to halt aggression against the Kosovar Albanians and accept an interim settlement with a Nato-led implementation force or bear the full responsibility of Nato military action".

The Prime Minister's office said Tony Blair had spoken to President Bill Clinton and the two had agreed the Kosovo situation was becoming increasingly serious. Both expressed frustration that peace efforts were being obstructed. "They were growing more and more troubled by what was happening on the ground," a spokeswoman said.

Mr Cook warned that Nato's threat of military intervention was "for real", and the Foreign Office said Mr Holbrooke would insist that Mr Milosevic "complies with his undertakings".

However, Germany's Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer, highlighted reservations among some European nations by striking a more balanced tone, arguing that the West needs "to use every opportunity" to achieve "a peaceful solution and avoid a confrontation". But he added: "At the moment it seems Belgrade is determined to risk that confrontation."

Mr Holbrooke's last-ditch mission was agreed at an emergency meeting of presidential advisers in Washington yesterday after a discussion of the latest Serb offensive. It followed frantic diplomatic efforts to ensure that a Western delegation would be received in Belgrade, and not "snubbed".

Nato is determined not to give the impression that Mr Milosevic has another breathing space. The time necessary for allied aircraft to strike after receiving the order to do so has been reduced from 48 hours to "a matter of just a few hours", an official said yesterday.

In Washington, Sandy Berger, the National Security Adviser, said the Holbrooke visit was a message to Mr Milosevic, "one final time to make clear to him that he faces a very stark choice". And he added: "He can move to the path of peace or he can take this punishment."

Like other US officials he declined to discuss a timetable for bombing, arguing that that would not be "appropriate" but there do appear to be reasons for the White House to hold back. Not only is there opposition in Congress to US involvement in the Balkans, but Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Prime Minister, is due to visit Washington tomorrow and Wednesday.

Although billed as a routine meeting, it is considerably more important. The US wishes to build its relations with Mr Primakov to encourage Russian ratification of a pending arms control agreement, and to formulate terms for Moscow's involvement in Nato's 50th anniversary celebrations. With Russia emotionally and diplomatically protective of Serbia, it would be exceptionally difficult for Mr Clinton to order bombing during the Russian premier's visit.

Thousands flee, page 11



Brian Jones of Britain (left) and Bertrand Piccard of Switzerland in Mut, Egypt, yesterday after their record-breaking flight around the world. Jerome Delay/AP

Record men fall to earth with a bump

"EVERYTHING," SAID Bertrand Piccard, was "absolutely wonderful". Despite a wait of more than seven hours outside the Egyptian western desert town of Mut, he and his co-pilot, Brian Jones, were euphoric.

They had, after all, become the first men to fly non-stop around the world in a balloon.

Piccard, stubble showing on his slightly sunburnt face, fought back tears as he spoke. "It is a big pleasure to have landed in Egypt. My wife was born in Egypt. My wife, with typical British sang-froid, immediately asked about his wife, who had stayed in Geneva to help the ground team, and then said he would like to "have a glass of orange juice".

The *Breilling Orbiter 3*, bright silver and as tall as a twenty-storey building, touched down yesterday morning at 5.52 GMT, 60 miles north of the Dakhla Oasis, deep in Egypt's Western Desert.

Mr Jones, 51, from Wiltshire, said: "The eagle has landed." After 21 days and more than 23,000 miles you might have thought he'd had enough time to think of something more original. At least his companion, a 41-year-old Swiss psychiatrist, felt excited enough to jump up and down and wave his arms around wildly.

From the perspective of the balloon, the conditions were ideal - strong winds had helped to push them further east than expected and the flat desert floor presented few hidden dangers. For the pilots it was not so pleasant. When they touched down they must have thought that the worst was over. Instead the final 60 miles back to a semblance of civilisation was to be as difficult as anything they had faced since setting off from Switzerland on 1 March.

"As of last night we had two helicopters from the Egyptian Air Force lined up to come and pick the men up," said Alan Noble, the expedition flight controller. "For some reason they said they would only help if there was an emergency. It's a little sad that you get all around the world and then this." Mr Noble did not say why the local authorities should feel obliged to spend thousands of pounds on a project costing a reported \$6m, which had not benefited Egypt by one cent.

A giant step for mankind? page 3

Blair faces backlash over 'control freakery'

BY ANDREW GRICE AND COLIN BROWN

TONY BLAIR will be hit by a new backlash this week from Labour activists who accuse him of "control freakery" in his running of the party.

Mr Blair's leadership will come under attack tomorrow when Labour's National Executive Committee (NEC) approves new measures to curb dissent by reforming the annual elections to the committee.

The allegations of growing central control will be heard as the NEC prepares to suspend the party in Newark, where a by-election looms after the Labour MP, Fiona Jones, was found guilty of election fraud.

Labour MPs are worried the growing discontent at Mr Blair's "autocratic" style could harm the party's prospects at the local elections in May and European elections in June.

"We regret the enormous damage which is currently being done to the democratic credentials of our party," said the north-west Cambridgeshire Labour Party.

"The attempts to interfere or predetermine the outcomes of the selection and election processes in the European election, Wales, Scotland and London are so blatant that we are in danger of making even the Tories appear democratic."

The constituency party in Folkestone and Hythe said the introduction of "loyalty tests" rather than competence tests was "not consistent" with Mr Blair's commitment to one-member-one-vote elections "and will damage the reputation of this party for openness and fairness". Chingford and Woodford Green party claimed in its motion there were "serious deficiencies" in the running of last year's NEC elections. It alleged that a Blairite group of candidates, Members First, spent £100,000 on their campaign and that a senior Labour official intervened "in a partisan way" to support them.

Tomorrow the NEC will agree to bring forward this year's election to the party's ruling body to the summer. Traditionally, the results are announced during the annual conference in October and defeats for pro-Blair candidates in the past two years have caused embarrassment to the leadership.

The NEC will approve a new code of conduct for internal party elections. It proposes any candidates worried about the running of the ballot should raise their concerns with party officials rather than go public. Anyone breaching what the left describes as a "gagging clause" could be disqualified.

Andrew Mackinlay, Review, Page 4

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THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Australia	6.30 AS	Israel	12.00 SA
Belgium	5.00 Sch	Italy	6.00 L
Canada	1.00 ST	Lebanon	6.00 L
France	3.50 CS	Malta	0.00
Germany	1.20 CC	Netherlands	6.50 G
Greece	1.12 L	Norway	20.00 NOK
Holland	2.00 D	Portugal	5.00 Is
Ireland	12.00 PM	Saudi	5.00 Is
Japan	15.00 J	Spain	2.75 Ps
Switzerland	6.00 S	Sweden	20.00 Sk
USA	12.00	Switzerland	5.50 SF
		Turkey	1.250.000 TL
		UK	5.50

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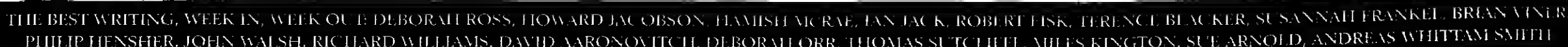
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FEATURES
THIS STUDENT LIFE
PLUS MEDIA, ARTS
& VISUAL ARTS

FRANKIE BRYAN VINE
AND EDITH SMITH

Ulster thugs beat boy, 13

BY DANIEL SANN

A 13-year-old boy was injured after being hit with a baseball bat by a group of Northern Irish youths. The boy, who is from a Protestant background, was attacked in a public place. The youths involved are now being sought by the police. The boy's injuries are not serious, but he is being treated in hospital. The police are warning that such attacks are on the rise in the area.

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THE WORLD
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ATLANTIC NOW TODAY

A great adventure, but does this rank as another giant leap for mankind?

BY JACK O'SULLIVAN

MARIE ANTOINETTE called it "the sport of gods" and certainly the challenge of ballooning around the world has defeated many humans. When Brian Jones of Britain and his Swiss co-pilot Bertrand Piccard landed yesterday in Egypt after circling the earth, they had completed one of the last great adventures.

Of course, circumnavigation of the globe is nothing new. Magellan sailed around the world in the 16th century. The first plane completed the journey non-stop in 1949. These days you can do the trip on a tourist ticket for less than a couple of thousand pounds.

Yet this ballooning dream, born in the Romantic era, dramatised by Jules Verne and turned into an obsession by Richard Branson has been gripping.

At first sight, it is hard to fathom this fascination with the success of the British-built *Breitling Orbiter 3*. Especially at the end of a century that has seen so many startling achievements: the exploration of the South and North Poles, the conquering of Everest, the breaking of the four-minute mile, the development of air flight, then space travel.

Against all this, flying balloons around the world seems like post-modern trivia, a bit of *fin de siècle* fun without real foundation. Indeed one suspects that the very positioning of this latest triumph, at the end of a millennium that has left so little to "conquer", may explain a spurious prominence.

Yet a closer look shows that the journey will rightly be remembered as an extraordinary world first.

These two Europeans have established the record for the longest aerial flight in history: 20 days. As Mr Branson, their most famous rival for this title, has said, 15 years ago the furthest a hot-air balloon had travelled was 600 miles. So the flight is a remarkable technical development, reflecting progress in weather forecasting, satellite technology and the design of balloons.

The pilots also risked their lives: deaths have been frequent in long-distance ballooning. Yes, the pair were backed by a considerable team, tracking their every move with the latest technology. But just as the film *Apollo 13* makes clear about travel in the Seventies to the Moon, the resources available were inadequate to the challenge.

The pair spent their time in a capsule only 17ft long and less than 10ft wide, containing bunks, a kitchen area, a toilet and a heater.

At one stage the two men were in danger of carbon dioxide poisoning; at another, they encountered freezing conditions, requiring Piccard to climb out of the capsule and hack off three-foot long icicles. At the very end, there was great concern that they might



Tenzing Norgay pictured by Edmund Hillary in 1953, when they became the first men to conquer Everest



The world watched as Neil Armstrong became the first man to set foot on the Moon, in 1969



Roger Bannister crossing the line in 1954 to become the first man to run the four-minute-mile



The 'Breitling Orbiter 3' after touching down near the oasis town of Matruh in Egypt yesterday Reuters

THE EXPERT VERDICTS

Sir Roger Bannister, who ran first mile under four minutes in 1954

"I see this wonderful success as achieved for glory but not as vainglorious. It is part of continual striving that characterises the human race and makes us different from animals. We cannot see something as possible and not do it."

Sir Ranulph Fiennes, first to circumnavigate the earth via the poles, 1982

"It was a worthwhile endeavour and stands on its own two feet alongside the first ascent of Mount Everest. It is not something I would scoff at."

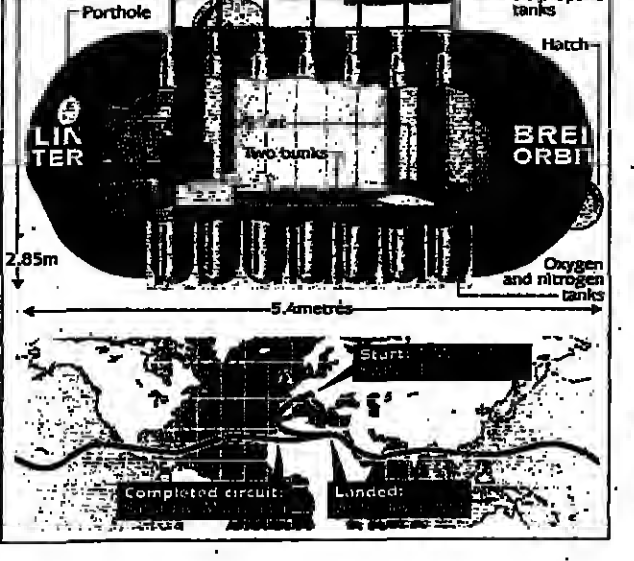
Sir Chris Bonington, led expedition to Everest's south-west face, 1975

"It is a wonderful achievement. The difficulties they faced were demonstrated by the number of failed attempts there have been. But each attempt learned from the previous one and thanks to improvements in weather forecasting, it became just possible to stand up to the wind and the elements."

Richard Noble, leader of Thrust SSC team, which broke the sound barrier on land, 1997

"Invariably I find success in breaking records comes to small outfits of dedicated people like this one without a lot of money. Where a big wealthy company is involved, the people tend to be more conservative."

20 DAYS IN THE ORBITER



going to the Moon or the first great aircraft journeys.

In this sense, the achievement is not of historical significance. It recalls the experience of Richard Noble's team, whose Thrust supersonic car beat the sound barrier in October 1997. "I don't think we ever thought we would help anyone trying to cope with the M25," said Mr Noble yesterday. "But we still had more than 50 million people visiting our website following our progress."

"We all need to be inspired and enlightened by such achievements. It encourages the next generation to go on to greater things."

Ironically, the weekend's success was interesting precisely because ballooning remains primitive. That also made this outmoded form of transport curiously contemporary. Instead of being about conquering nature in the style of an imperial age, this adventure was about harnessing the earth's forces in a more harmonious, Nineties manner.

Most people could also imagine that maybe it could have been them flying at 35,000ft above the earth in a tiny capsule, prey to the elements, sailing across a giant planet. After all, Brian Jones was only a last-minute choice for the flight.

The goals of the adventure were also unusually clear for a world audience. Such clarity, ap-

pealing to the public imagination, is now rare for explorers and adventurers.

Sir Ranulph Fiennes recalls with sadness his return in 1982 from successfully completing the first circumnavigation of the earth. He had trekked 130,000 miles from Greenwich, spent three years travelling and become, with his colleague, the first person to go to the South and North Poles in one trip. Yet, when he got back to Greenwich, his arrival was overshadowed by the return of soldiers from the Falklands.

Sir Chris Bonington's experience demonstrates how once the big success is recorded in a field, the public loses interest and acknowledgement comes only from aficionados. Thus, in 1975, Sir Chris Bonington led a brave and successful attempt on the steepest approach to Everest. But the adventure never had the huge appeal of the first ascent in 1953 when Sir Edmund Hillary famously "knocked the bastard off".

The same will now be true for ballooning. There will be more races, more dicing with

death, but the big race between Mr Branson, the *Breitling Orbiter 3* and others is over. There may eventually be, suggests Sir Ranulph Fiennes, an attempt to follow his example of a circumnavigation of the globe. But the only balloon journey which will again truly capture public attention will be the solo trips, like Reinhold Messner's solo ascent of Everest in 1981, unaided by oxygen.

Are there, then, any great world firsts to be achieved after this weekend? Space travel is inevitably the final frontier. But

what about here on earth? The great adventures will be under the sea, predicts Sir Chris Bonington, while Richard Noble points to other frontiers. "There will be breaking the sound barrier on water, running the three-minute mile, reaching a 1,000 miles an hour on land and 500 miles an hour in a wheel-driven vehicle."

So there are still many challenges ahead, although few offer the romance of flying around the world by balloon in a quarter of the time even Jules Verne dared imagine.

TWO RECORD-BREAKERS... AND THE ONE LEFT BEHIND

Bertrand Piccard

In becoming the first man to circumnavigate the world in a hot-air balloon, the 41-year-old Swiss psychiatrist has added another world first to a family of record-setters. His grandfather, Auguste Piccard, and his partner were the first to take a hot-air balloon into the stratosphere, rising to almost 10 miles in 1931. Auguste's twin brother, Jean-Felix, went to 11 miles three years later. In 1960 Bertrand's father, Jacques, took a submarine to the bottom of the Mariana Trench in the Pacific, at nearly seven miles the deepest point on the earth's surface.

Brian Jones

He will go down in pioneering history, but had it not been for a reported personality clash between his co-pilot and Tony Brown - the man initially selected for the flight - the honour would have eluded him. Until December, the 51-year-old grandfather from Eresbroke, Wiltshire, had been designated as back-up pilot for the project and was second-in-command to the mission chief, Alan Noble. After learning to fly at the age of 16, Jones spent 13 years with the RAF. He developed a passion for ballooning in 1986, acquiring his licence and becoming an instructor in 1989.

Tony Brown

Tony Brown might have been looking forward to becoming a millionaire today had he not decided the price - three weeks in a tiny capsule with pilot Bertrand Piccard - was too high. At a team meeting in December a decision was made to end the pilots' partnership and Mr Brown left, waving goodbye in turned out to a fortune in book and advertising deals. The Concorde technician, from Guildford in Surrey, has no regrets. He is reported to have had difficulties with Piccard's obsession with flying around the world, a difference in attitude that drove a wedge between them.

Queue forms for next challenge

THE BRITISH have a long-standing and unshakeable love affair with dangerous exploits, as witnessed by the success of the balloonists' record-breaking trip around the world.

Despite the fact that many have died, and died, in attempts to brave the worst that nature can throw up, there is a constant stream of adventurers rushing to risk their lives.

Just as David Hempleman-Adams abandoned his attempt to complete a solo unassisted trek to the geomagnetic North

Pole, the mountaineer Alan Hinkes was packing his rucksacks to head for Nepal - where he aims to be the first Briton to climb all 14 mountains in the world over 8,000 metres.

Hempleman-Adams returned to his base camp in Canada late on Thursday night, after being rescued by a plane from an ice shelf. The 42-year-old, from Box, near Bath, was just 10 days into his journey when the runners on the sledge

were torn apart by rocks exposed by high winds. "The next part of the trip was 70 miles across rough terrain, higher mountains, and I just figured that there would have been no way in hell would I have got that sledge through there without it falling apart," he said. He is expected back in Britain today.

For Hinkes, however, the challenge of climbing the Nepalese peaks of Annapurna, Dhaulagiri, Kangchenjunga and Makalu has yet to begin. "Mountains are dangerous

places," he said yesterday. "I know that I mustn't get complacent, or I could get killed. These days, I am more aware of my mortality."

He has already climbed 10 of the world's highest mountains - including Everest and K2 - and if he succeeds in his mission he will join an exclusive world club of just five people.

"It may have taken me 12 years to do it, and another Briton could then do it faster," he said yesterday. "But they can never be first, can they?"

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ICI tops list of Britain's worst polluting companies

A "HALL of shame" of Britain's dirtiest firms is published today by the Government's environment watchdog for England and Wales.

The "league table" includes some of the UK's largest companies. ICI Chemicals, Shell UK and British Nuclear Fuels Limited (BNFL) feature in a long list of firms which were fined more than £2m in total last year for pollution offences.

ICI tops the list largely be-

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

cause of a £300,000 fine it incurred last March for polluting groundwater with almost 150 tonnes of chloroform in April 1997. The leak was discovered when a contractor spotted a 3ft-high fountain of the pollutant gushing from a broken filter in a pipe at the company's sprawling site in Runcorn, Cheshire.

The Environment Agency is now calling for much larger

penalties to be imposed by the courts to cut down pollution.

Ed Gallagher, the agency's chief executive, said: "The average fine for a prosecution last year was £2,786. Clearly this is not sending out a strong enough message to deter large businesses that have the potential to seriously damage the environment."

Waste management and water companies take up five of the top six places. The Environ-

ment Agency said the presence of two water companies in the top 10 reflected the high number of offences committed by the water and sewage industries.

ICI was also fined last year for the release of a metal-cleaning chemical which evaporated into the air and entered a nearby canal, and for a discharge at a site at Cleveland which sprayed across marshland and killed birds, fish and vegetation. A spokesman said: "This is

yesterday's news. It relates to already well-publicised events at three of our plants in 1997 where action to prevent recurrence has already been taken."

He added: "In the last three years ICI has reduced by a third the environmental impact of its legally permitted emissions at its plants in the UK, which number more than 40 plants, at a cost of over £140m. The company is determined to continue this drive for improvement."

Shell UK joint eighth in the list, was fined £20,000 last year for polluting the Manchester Ship Canal with the equivalent of 10,500 household buckets of refined oil from the Stanlow Manufacturing Complex in Ellesmere Port. A spokesman for Shell said that the company regretted the incident and had taken measures to ensure it never happened again.

BNFL was also fined £20,000 last year following a discharge

from a site in Preston into the River Ribble in May 1997. A spokesman said: "The discharge... did not involve radioactive materials. While not excusing our failure on that occasion there was no evidence the offences... had any detrimental effect on aquatic life."

The largest ever pollution fine in Britain was £1m, imposed on Shell UK after a massive oil pipeline leak polluted the Mersey Estuary in 1989.

The top polluters calculated by fines received are: 1. ICI Chemicals, £382,500; 2. Tyeley Waste Disposal Ltd, £95,500; 3. London Waste Ltd, £38,500; 4. Wessex Water Ltd, £38,500; 5. Alcoa Waste Management, £30,000; 6. Anglian Water Services Ltd, £24,250; 7. EOM Construction Ltd, £21,000; 8. Shell (UK) Ltd, £20,000; 9. BNFL, £20,000; 10. Celtic Energy, £18,000; 11. European Vinyls Corporation Ltd, £18,000.

Heads attack tuition plan for top pupils

TEACHERS yesterday accused the Government of undermining inner-city schools after plans to offer bright children special tuition were revealed.

About 100,000 pupils from inner-city comprehensives will be offered master classes at nearby specialist colleges in subjects in which they excel. The aim is to keep middle-class pupils at inner-city schools as the gap between the best and worst schools widens and ambitious parents shop around.

Proposals to be announced today by David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, will also help the slowest pupils. No details were available, but early leaks concentrated on the benefits for the top 10 per cent.

Earlier this year the Prime Minister infuriated teachers when he said that some inner-city schools were so bad he did not blame parents for "making other arrangements" for children. He opted to send both his children to schools six miles from their Westminster home, at the London Oratory in Hammersmith and nearby Sacred Heart girls' school. He also backed Harriet Harman, who sent her son to St Olave's grammar school in Bromley rather than the local comprehensive.

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

Yesterday John Durnford, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said: "This is a vote of no confidence in inner-city schools, many of which are doing a superb job. Teachers at these schools will go into work tomorrow feeling that the only way their bright kids can get a good education is by getting out of them. We need a package in inner-city schools for children of all abilities."

Mr Blair and Mr Blunkett see the scheme as part of their promise to "modernise" comprehensive education. About 450 schools will be involved in the three-year programme to divert £100m to schools in London, Birmingham, Merseyside, Manchester, Leeds, Bradford, Sheffield and Rotherham.

Pupils will attend their local schools for most lessons, but will receive extra tuition in the growing network of schools specialising in science, technology, languages, the arts and sport.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "If this hare-brained scheme is designed to reassure the middle

classes, it will not succeed. Desperate middle-class parents can usually afford extra tuition. Their real concern is social. They don't want their children mixing with rough children in schools where bullying is rife."

Schools in the programme will have to name a teacher to co-ordinate it. Estelle Morris, the school standards minister, will be given an extra role as minister for inner-city education.

A national team of advisers will include Professor Tim Brighouse, who last week resigned as vice-chairman of the Government's standards task force after disputes with Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools.

Professor Brighouse told BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend* that there had been a flight from inner cities in Britain and north America. "We've got to reverse that. The starting point must be to get behind the efforts of the staff in inner cities and introduce more education."

He said he did not believe the initiative would benefit only the 10 per cent of children "because I know the Government is totally committed to success for the many rather than the few, and that would be the few."

Leading article,
Review, page 3



Kevin Carlyon, a white witch, conducts a fertility ceremony with Eric and Sue Rae in the eye of the White Horse on White Horse Hill, near Oxford

Elderly farmer killed by bull

BY JOHN SHEERAN

AN ELDERLY farmer who died when he was attacked by a bull as he went to check for new-born lambs was yesterday described as having been a fit, man who "would have shown up someone half his age".

Brian Warren, 86, was killed by the animal at Hall Farm in the village of Foulham All Saints in Suffolk.

The widower was attacked by the five-year-old Shorthorn in a field at his farm on Saturday night. Emergency services were prevented from helping him for half an hour until the bull was put down by a local gamekeeper. By the time doctors reached Mr Warren, who ran the farm with his son Martin, 36, he had died from his injuries.

His friend Sebastian White said that Mr Warren's death would be a sad loss to the community. "He was a great person to be with and had a great sense of humour. He was a very kind person who will be greatly missed," he said.

Mr White, 34, said that despite his age, Mr Warren was fighting-fit and still worked on the farm as normal. "He was a very fit man and would have shown up someone half his age," he said.

He was attacked by the bull as he went to check for new-born lambs at the start of the lambing season.

The Health and Safety Executive has been informed and an inquest will take place.

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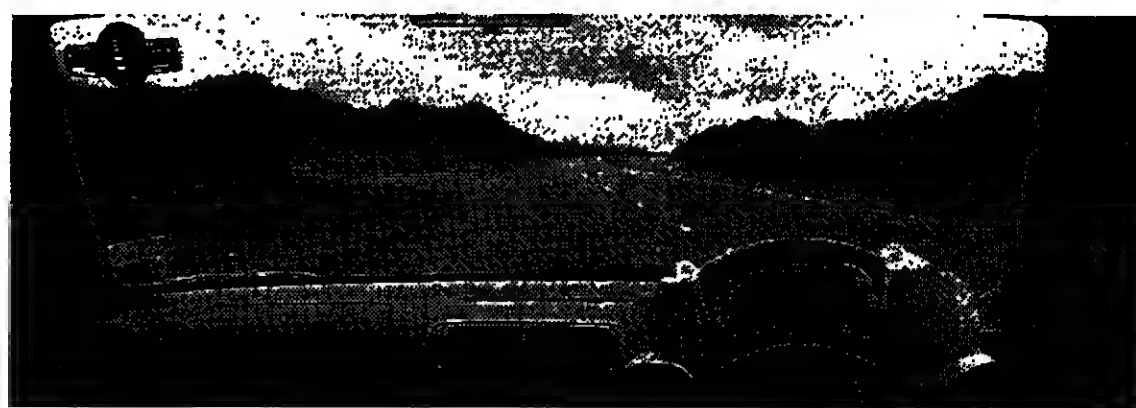
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Staff sue firms for 'excessive courtesy'

MORE AND MORE female employees are suing for sexual harassment over incidents the defendants claim are merely examples of old-fashioned courtesy. Disputes of this nature have doubled in the past three years, with nearly 20 such cases a week, according to a leading firm of employment lawyers. Companies often prefer to settle the matter privately to avoid publicity.

BY CHERRY NORTON
Social Affairs Correspondent

"It's the death of common courtesy," said Christopher Southam, a senior partner in the law firm Osborne Clarke. "Some people are misconstruing the most innocent of words and actions. Others are on their guard and are deliberately not using common courtesy in case they are misinterpreted."

In one case a 32-year-old female administrator, working in the transport industry in London, sued her company because a colleague kept sending her cards and flowers, saying she was doing a good job. She complained: "It was a daily pressure, I did not want to go into work."

When she made an allegation of sexual harassment the company, which did not have a proper sexual complaints procedure, chose to settle the case for £1,000 rather than contest it.

"Employers need to introduce appropriate policies to increase awareness of what sexual harassment is," said Mr Southam. "This will reduce the potential for crisis, over the top activity as well as providing employees with a defence."

In a case last year, a 25-year-old accountant based in London complained to her personnel department about her "terrifically nice boss". He kept giving her chocolates and thanking her for doing a good job. The woman found his actions reprehensible because he did not treat other trainees in the same way and he made her feel uncomfortable. She said: "He was thanking me all the time for doing a job I was being paid to do."

Her boss, a 45-year-old accountant who had worked for the firm for more than 25 years,

was "mortified" when he was told of the complaint by personnel and stopped sending her chocolates. He claimed he was "just trying to be nice" and had no idea his actions had been misconstrued.

Even e-mails are not exempt from this legal minefield since employers can be held liable for those sent by their staff.

"I am saddened by such attitudes. Everyone can benefit from a little more courtesy," said Gill Mackenzie, honorary secretary of the Campaign for Courtesy. "This country loses billions of pounds on stress-related illness. One would have thought a little more courtesy would help."

In Ms Mackenzie's view, provided there is no favouritism or sexual overtures, courtesy at work should be encouraged, as happy employees are more efficient employees. Even senior figures complain about the offensiveness of courtesy. A 29-year-old female banker in the City kept finding flowers and bags of sweets on her desk from a 23-year-old male banker she was training. They were accompanied by cards, thanking her and telling her she was wonderful. The woman sued the company for sexual harassment and settled for a confidential sum.

The Equal Opportunities Commission disputes that attempts to be courteous often result in harassment complaints. It also believes few cases of sexual harassment are brought lightly or motivated by the possibility of financial reward.

"They are the last resort," said Jane Monkhouse, a commission specialist on sexual harassment. "Sexual harassment at work can be both unpleasant and damaging. It can be persistent verbal harassment, physical attack or just one event. Most large firms do have proper policies in place but many small companies do not see the need and this is when trouble and confusion can occur."



Morecambe and Wise in their heyday. They were partners in comedy for over 40 years

Reiz Features

Ernie Wise, owner of legendary short, fat, hairy legs, dies at 73

BY PAUL MCCANN
Media Editor

ERNIE WISE, perhaps British comedy's greatest straight man, died of heart failure in hospital yesterday morning at the age of 73.

Wise, the second half of the hit comedy television show Morecambe and Wise, had been seriously ill since December when he suffered two heart attacks in one week. He had a triple heart bypass operation in Fort Lauderdale near his holiday home in Florida in January, and flew to Britain by air ambulance two weeks ago. He was in hospital near Slough, Berkshire, when complications from a chest infection and his operation caused heart failure at 7am.

His wife, Doreen, said: "He had recovered slightly and was well enough to come home from Florida. I phoned the hospital at 6.15 to check how he was and they said he was okay. Then they called back to say they were worried about his condition. I went to the hospi-



Ernie Wise showing an early talent to amuse as a schoolboy, and with his wife, Doreen, to whom he was married for 46 years



tal, but he had already died." Leading figures from the entertainment world paid tribute to Wise's 40-year partnership with the man who called him "Little Ernie". "They both had an important part to play in their double act," said Bill Cotton, the former BBC1 controller who brought the duo to the BBC. "Ernie's role was equally important. If Ernie had

died first, Eric would have been just as lost professionally as Ernie was without him." Eric Morecambe died of a heart attack in 1984. Yesterday, a Downing Street spokesman said: "The Prime Minister was very saddened to hear about this." Glenda Jackson MP, who was one of many stars who appeared on the Morecambe and Wise show, said the double act

was great fun: "We were always laughing during rehearsals and when filming. It wasn't that they were working at it, it was just that they were a joy to be around." Des O'Connor, who for years was the butt of Eric and Ernie's jokes, said Wise had given more to the act than was realised: "Eric was the wit, but Ernie was the strength, the

anchor. If Eric got lost, it was Ernie pulling him back and righting the boat."

Wise, born Ernie Wiseman in Leeds, was just 16 when he teamed up with Morecambe. They first worked on television in the early Sixties in a half-hour ITV show. Once they moved to longer programmes on BBC1, they became Britain's most popular entertainers. They were at their peak in the Seventies, with their Christmas Day programme as big a tradition as the Queen's broadcast.

Wise always rejected the idea he was the lesser partner in the team. He once said: "I am not the stooge; a stooge does not say anything, just stands there with his face painted. I was the song and dance man."

But with his "short, fat, hairy legs" and his willingness to have his fringe tugged - "you can't see the join, you know" - Ernie Wise gave more than a song and dance man ever could. He gave Eric Morecambe's talent a target.

Obituary, Review, page 6

Heath attacks Hague on EU

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

WILLIAM HAGUE came under fresh fire from his own side last night as Sir Edward Heath accused him of talking "nonsense" over the EU Commission crisis.

Mr Heath, who took Britain into Europe, dismissed a suggestion by the Tory party leader that the commissioners should all have resigned last January. "All of that is absolute nonsense," he said in a television interview. "We know he doesn't want the Commission, he doesn't want us to be in Europe and that's all being proclaimed pretty loudly."

Sir Edward said he would be "perfectly happy" if the pro-European Tory former cabinet minister Chris Patten and the outgoing Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown were Britain's next two nominees to be commissioners.

When it was pointed out that such appointments would leave supporters of Mr Hague's Eurosceptic line without a voice, the former Prime Minister replied: "It's a pretty small voice in any case in the House of Commons."

Sir Edward conceded that it might be hard for Mr Blair to nominate two non-Labour candidates, but added: "I have long suspected that he really wants to get a nomination from Mr Hague that he won't accept and then put Chris Patten in his place, if Chris wants it."

Last Tuesday Mr Hague told the Commons that while he agreed commissioners not directly implicated by the report should serve out their terms as an interim measure, there should be "a total clear-out of the existing Commission and an entirely new set of commissioners appointed". He also said it was time to change the structure that had led the Commission and the EU to try to do too much and interfere too often.

Sir Edward said last week's report on mismanagement of funds presented an opportunity to tackle the EU's weaknesses. However, he added that for the former French Prime Minister Edith Cresson to have appointed her dentist and his son to Commission jobs was "not necessarily" corruption.

The former prime minister also warned Mr Blair over his comment that the crisis was an opportunity for Britain. "Mr Blair has to be very careful about this," he said.

Three die in fastest road car 'Church must welcome blacks'

THREE PEOPLE were killed yesterday in a McLaren F1, the fastest and most expensive road car produced, when the car crashed into a tree and burst into flames on the hrow of a hill in Essex.

Witnesses said that the fire in the car, which costs £627,000 and has a top speed of 228mph, was so intense that they were unable to approach the inferno by the side of the A120, at an accident blackspot near the market town of Great

BY DARIUS SANAI

Dunmow. Police said that the driver of the metallic hurgundy supercar was a local businessman. The other two victims were the female passengers.

The driver of the F1, a road-going offshoot of the Surrey-based McLaren Formula One racing team, sits centrally at the front of the cabin, flanked by two passengers slightly behind him on either side. The crash happened at

about 2pm. Susan Mulford and her husband Leigh rushed from their home after hearing the crash. Mrs Mulford said: "We saw this great cloud of black smoke and then flames right across the road."

"It was fortunate that no other cars were following. No one could get anywhere near it. It was just smoke and flames."

Police were withholding the victims' names last night pending notification of their next of kin.



The McLaren F1 has a top speed of 228mph

A LEADING bishop said yesterday that the Church of England should be more welcoming to its black congregation. The Right Rev James Jones, installed as Bishop of Liverpool last year, denied, however, that the Anglican Church was institutionally racist.

He said many Anglican immigrants arriving in Britain from the West Indies in the Fifties were not welcomed into the Church. The comments came as Bishop Jones deliv-

BY MARIA BRESLIN

ered a human rights talk as part of the 10th annual Peter Heery lecture in the crypt of Liverpool's Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King.

"I think the Church could be much more welcoming to black people," he said.

"The origins of the black-led churches in this country was because people coming to us, especially from the West Indies, did not find a welcome in the

Church at the time. Although nobody admits to being racist, there are undercurrents in all our institutions that make black people and all people of ethnic minorities feel they don't belong."

"The Church is not institutionally racist but there are subtle forces at work in every institution that keep some people out."

"On behalf of the Church of England I want to extend a welcome to people of every race

into the Church," Bishop Jones added.

The bishop hit the headlines last weekend when it was revealed that the father-of-three daughters was to be featured alongside strippers and table-top dancers in a BBC series to be shown in the run-up to Easter.

Bishop Jones, a close friend of the veteran entertainer Cliff Richard, defended his decision, claiming he was in line with the work of Christ.

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Bells toll protest at football on Sabbath

THE CONSTANT tolling of a church bell mixed with the chants and shouts of a football crowd in Birmingham yesterday, as a vicar and his diminishing flock staged a protest against the encroachment of football on Sunday worship.

The Rev Keith Sinclair was angry about the rescheduling of Aston Villa's televised game against Chelsea to 11.30am yesterday, which he said would severely disrupt services at nearby churches, including his own Astoo Parish Church.

With his congregation down to 30, less than half the normal attendance, his five bellringers kept the tenor bell tolling from 10am to 1pm. "We're not trying to annoy anyone, but we feel it is about time football stopped steamrolling everything in its path," said Mr Sinclair. "When TV ratings are seen as more important than people's freedom to worship, we have a major problem."

The peals of protest were led by Don Finmore, the master ringer, who agreed that it was time to take a stand. "One hundred years ago, Aston Villa

BY JOHN DAVISON

were a Methodist church team. They would never have dreamed of playing a match on the day of worship," he said. A spokesman for Aston Villa said that the early start was not their fault. "We sympathise with the churchgoers, but the rescheduling was completely out of our hands. Sky are pretty much in control."

Vic Wakeling, managing director of Sky Sports, said: "The game was offered to Sky Sports and we informed the Premier League that we would be able to transmit it if the kick-off was at 12.30pm or 1pm," he said. "This was because we were already committed to the Worthington Cup Final on the same day." The Premier League then told them that the game would kick-off at 11.30am, Mr Wakeling added.

The bellringers could be back in action for Aston Villa's next home game, against West Ham, which Sky has brought forward to Good Friday.

Leading article
Review, page 3



Villa supporters pass Aston Parish Church yesterday on their way to the Sunday morning match. Claire Lim

US and Europe row over GM milk

A FRESH row is brewing between the United States and Europe over genetically manipulated products promoted by the biotechnology giant Monsanto - this time, over milk.

New scientific studies suggest that an artificial hormone used in the US to make cattle produce more milk could raise the risk of breast and prostate cancer in humans.

Yet the American government is now pushing Europe to end a moratorium on the use of animal growth hormones. The moratorium was imposed in 1989 on the grounds that European farmers were already producing too much milk and beef, and there was no need for greater production. It was extended in 1996 and 1997.

But the US says now that the ban infringes free trade rules - and, in particular, restrains the ability of Monsanto, which has patented a genetically engineered version of the milk-producing hormone, to sell its product in Europe.

The row carries echoes of the ongoing arguments over imports of bananas from Caribbean countries to the EU, which, according to the US, breach trade rules. Monsanto's presence also recalls the lack of labelling on genetically modified soya beans grown in the US but shipped to Europe.

But since the European ban on bovine somatotropin (BST) came into force in 1997, new scientific evidence has found that

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

giving cattle excess levels of the hormone - a naturally-occurring substance - can cause a fivefold rise in the levels of a protein called IGF-1 (immune growth factor) in the milk.

Studies published last year in *Science* and *The Lancet* showed that heightened levels of IGF-1 in humans carry an increased risk of prostate cancer in men, and breast cancer in women.

Senior European vets are understood to have submitted a report to the European Commission calling for the ban on BST to continue. That could trigger a renewed trade row with the US.

BST, produced by genetically engineered bacteria carrying the cattle DNA for the hormone, is marketed by Monsanto under the name Posilac. It was patented, and won approval for use from the US Food and Drug Administration in 1993.

But the quality of the FDA's investigation has now been called into doubt. Critics say that rather than carrying out its own studies on the hormone, it relied on studies summarised and passed to it by Monsanto. A search by *The Independent* of the FDA's literature on BST does not show any investigation of IGF-1 levels in milk produced by injected cattle.

A spokesman for Monsanto dismissed the concerns and insisted the product was safe.

IN BRIEF

Baby found in shopping centre

A NEW-BORN baby was found yesterday abandoned in a box in a shopping arcade in Leicester. The baby boy, only hours old, was taken to Leicester Royal Infirmary. A spokesman said his condition was stable.

Adolescent angst angers adults

PARENTHOOD IS a frustrating experience, according to a survey published yesterday. Two-thirds of parents are driven to distraction by their children's refusal to help around the home and the state of their bedrooms.

Diana fund chairman steps down

DIANA, PRINCESS of Wales' former lawyer is standing down as chairman of her memorial fund. Anthony Julius, who negotiated her divorce, will remain a trustee of the fund.

Three share £13.4m jackpot

THE NUMBERS in Saturday's National Lottery were: 45, 29, 13, 49, 25, 17, bonus 28. Three share a £13.4m jackpot.

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Wendy Boase

WENDY BOASE, founding editor of Walker Books, epitomised all that is best in an editor: she cared passionately about her authors and her books, she cared about the words and the pictures, she cared about every detail of a book's production. Such editors are rare.

She was born in Melbourne and had what she described as a "typically out-of-doors Australian upbringing". Much of her time was spent helping her mother run a country store which sold "everything from bras to bathing caps." An avid reader from the start, she discovered the world of Australian children's classics and never lost her fondness for such seminal titles as May Gibbs's *Snuggly* and *Cuddlepig* (1918) and *The Magic Pudding* by Norman Lindsay (1918). Good storytelling was important to her; she valued and appreciated the quality it could bring into a child's life.

Her schooling was somewhat indifferent but she went on to Sydney University to study Anglo-Saxon and Middle English. A two-year period of teaching in a private school followed her graduation, but then, like so many young Australians of her generation, she set off in 1968 for the almost obligatory "year in the U.S." - a year which turned into a lifetime. In London she taught for a while, then took off to travel round Europe and North America.

Returning to London, Boase enjoyed a brief and unlikely spell as a croupier in a gambling club before taking her first publishing job at *Reader's Digest*, where she was a reluctant secretary until she was promoted to the research department. From there she went to Marshall Cavendish, the book packager. There she met the charismatic Sebastian Walker and the art director Amelia Edwards.

When Walker began his publishing adventure Walker Books, in 1978, he invited Boase to join him "to look after the words". Walker, Boase, and Edwards together set up the fledgling company in the spare bedroom of Walker's Islington home and from this modest start grew a children's book publishing company which is now one of the most innovative, successful and admired in the world. After Walker's premature death in 1991 the company took on a more structured framework and Boase

joined the new board, becoming Editorial Director.

Boase's life was Walker Books. She had vast energy, a huge capacity for work and a fiercely protective attitude towards her authors and artists. She also had a finely tuned feeling for good writing, picking out from the never-ending piles of unsolicited manuscripts such talented writers as Hugh Scott, whose novel *Why Weeps the Erogan?* won the Whitbread Award in 1989, and Lesley Howarth, who won the Guardian Fiction Award in 1996 with *Map Head*.

She was especially proud of the *Maisy* books by Lucy Cousins, and when the first dummies of these little books arrived in the Walker office Boase ran round to everyone enthusiastically hailing a potential bestseller. She was

'Nothing but the rarest kind of best is good enough for children,' wrote Walter de la Mare. Wendy Boase lived that ideal



Boase's life was Walker Books, which she joined when it began in 1978

right; 10 titles have followed the original *Maisy Goes to Bed* (1990), with several more to be published this autumn, including *Maisy's Mix-and-Match Mousewear*. The books have become world-wide favourites, published in 16 languages. One of Boase's last great coups was the development of a forthcoming television series featuring *Maisy*.

Boase was an influential figure in the groundbreaking deal Walker struck with Sainsbury, the subsequent marketing in Sainsbury stores of high-quality, low-cost children's books, produced by Walker, was one of the most significant developments in children's publishing since the Second World War.

But it was fiction which was Boase's particular love and over 10 years she

built the Walker fiction list to its present pre-eminent position at a time when many publishers were cutting back on their children's fiction. This took courage and vision, and it was a venture supported by the chairman of Walker Books, David Lloyd, from the start.

Like all good editors, Boase abhorred sloppiness and could be impatient if her high standards were not met. But her colleagues loved and respected her, and many young editors benefited from her training. A rather severe and unchanging hair-style could give her a formidable air, but this was misleading - she was never a *grande dame*. She retained her down-to-earth Australian directness of manner, did not suffer fools, and had a robustly earthy sense of humour.

Boase claimed to have no hobbies but she enjoyed walking and country life, was interested in antiques, never stopped reading and once knitted a Kaffe Fassett sweater. Cancer struck her with terrible swiftness and was endured with awesome grace.

"Nothing but the rarest kind of best in anything is good enough for children," wrote Walter de la Mare. Wendy Boase lived that ideal, and the many authors and artists she nurtured with such skill will keep it alive for her.

JULIA MACRAE

Wendy Boase, book editor: born Melbourne, Victoria 14 October 1944; married 1979 John Vigurs; died London 15 March 1999.

Professor Trevor Saunders

TREVOR SAUNDERS was a leading authority on ancient Greek philosophy and a superb teacher. He was known inside and outside Newcastle University for his personal integrity, scrupulous fairness, and strong sense of where a scholar's interests lay, spiced with occasional bouts of dark foreboding about What the Administration Was Planning Next. Which never failed to give pleasure.

He faced the destructive absurdities foisted upon universities in recent years not with blind resistance or hopeless resignation, but with a determination to preserve what every serious researcher in the humanities needs and the authorities nowadays bend over backwards to deny - the time to read, think and write. His own work on Plato showed what could be done by a scholar who harvested his research time carefully, but without compromising his commitment to students and colleagues or his sense of duty, however weary at times, to the administration.

His qualities were always in demand, locally and nationally, and brought him the chairmanship of the Council of University Classics Departments, membership of the government research assessment panel for Classics, a seat on the Council of Durham University. To his secure, clear-eyed judgement the Newcastle Classics Department and Arts Faculty turned, with gratitude and relief, time and again.

Saunders was raised on a farm in

Wiltshire, went to Chippenham Grammar School, in 1963 took up a scholarship at University College London (graduating with a First in Classics) and ended his formal education at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he completed a doctorate on Plato's *Lysis*. Greek, social, political and legal thought was to become the focus of his scholarly life, but early on he found he had a talent for translating, and produced a series of first-rate Penguin Classics. These included Plato's *Lysis* (1970), a complete revision of Aristotle's *Politics* (1981, originally by E.A. Sinclair - this paved the way for his text and translation of the first two books of *The Politics* in the Clarendon Aristotle series, 1993) and Plato's *Ion* in *Early Socratic Dialogues* (1987), a collection he edited and introduced.

His enviable gift for making complicated philosophy in an ancient language and distant culture comprehensible to a lay readership was never more clearly exhibited than in his teaching, to whose clarity, cogency, vigour and wit generations of students can testify. His scholarly work showed precisely the same qualities - he had no time for the trendy obsessions of the contemporary literary scene - and commanded a similar respect among his peers, as two recent international conferences on Plato's *Lysis* demonstrated.

His *Plato's Penal Code* (1991), a fat book without an ounce of fat on it, was the culmination of a lifetime's intense



Saunders: Plato comprehended

reflection on Plato, a major contribution to our understanding of ancient Greek legal theory and practice, and a fitting monument to the man and his scholarship: beautifully written, wide-ranging (the surveys the field from Homer onwards) and sharply focused, rigorously and courteously argued, and exactly annotated.

Due to retire in September, he had been planning for some time the first modern investigation of ancient Greek theories of equity when cancer of the pancreas was diagnosed, leaving him a few weeks to live. This he bore with a proper philosophical equanimity,

buoyed by his and his beloved family's longstanding Catholic faith.

A demon croquet player (given the chance), Trevor Saunders found his relaxation in films and railways. It seemed that there was virtually no film he had not seen or would not go to see (for a long time he possessed no television, despising its small screen) and there was certainly nothing about the most obscure branch-line on which he would not discourse, if prompted. Films about railways were his idea of heaven. He was on the footplate of the last train to travel the Wansbeck line, and tape-recorded the sound for posterity. His cremation ended, as his family fittingly insisted, with the sound of that train chugging out of Woodburn station, bearing him on its way.

PETER JONES

Trevor John Saunders, classical scholar: born Corsham, Wiltshire 12 July 1934; Assistant Lecturer in Latin, Bedford College, London University 1959-61; Assistant Lecturer in Classics, Hull University 1961-63; Lecturer 1963-65; Lecturer in Classics, Newcastle University, 1965-72; Senior Lecturer 1972-78; Reader in Greek Philosophy 1978; Professor of Greek 1978-99; Head of Classics 1972-82, 1987-92; Dean of the Faculty of Arts 1982-85; Chairman, Council of University Classics Departments 1981-84; married 1959 Teresa Schmitz (two daughters); died Newcastle upon Tyne 24 January 1999.

GAZETTE

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IN MEMORIAM

LASSOW: Hilda. In loving memory of my wonderful mother who left me last year. She was such a bright light and I miss her more than words can say. From her loving daughter.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette notices are charged at £10 (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

Mr George Benson, singer and jazz guitarist, 56; Mr Desmond Browne MP, 47; Miss Betty Callaway, ice-skating trainer, 71; Miss Sheila Cameron QC, Vicar-General of the Province of Canterbury, 65; Mr Brian Hanrahan, broadcaster, 50; Mr David Ingman, former Chairman, British Waterways Board, 71; The Very Rev Lawrence Jackson, Provost Emeritus of Blackburn, 73; Dr Harry Ray, former Vice-Chancellor, Exeter University, 80; Mr Werner Klempner, actor, 80; Lord Lloyd-Webber, composer, 51; Mr Peter McEvoy, golfer, 46; Mr Karl Malde, actor, 86; M Marcel Marceau, mime artist, 78; Mr Andrew Morris, High Commissioner to Tonga, 60; Mr Stephen Nash, ambassador to Georgia, 57; Mr Alan Opie, bari-

ANNIVERSARIES

tone, 54; Mr Charles Pick, former managing director, Heinemann, 82; Sir Lynden Pindling, former prime minister of the Bahamas, 69; Professor William Ritchie, Vice-Chancellor, Lancaster University, 59; Mr Paul Rogers, actor, 82; Mr Paul Schockemöhle, show-jumper, 54; Mr William Shatner, actor, 68; Mr Stephen Sondheim, composer and lyricist, 69; Professor Sir Colin Spedding, chairman, UK Register of Organic Food Standards Board, 74; Lord Stokes, former president, British Leyland, 85; Miss Mary Tamm, actress, 49; Mr Leslie Thomas, writer, 68; Professor Sir Leslie Turnbull, chairman, Specialist Training Authority, 65; Miss Fanny Waterman, pianist and teacher, 75; Professor David Watson, Director, University of Brighton, 50.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

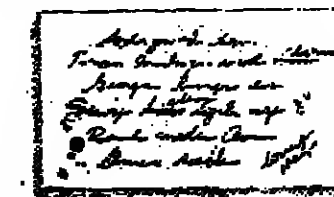
The Prince of Wales, Patron, the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Ethiopian Challenge 1999 Expedition, attends a reception in aid of the expedition. The Princess Royal, Patron, the Butler Trust, attends the Annual Award Ceremony at Buckingham Palace; opens Hill Romes' new nursing home, Bridgeton Lodge in Wharf Road, London W1; and, as Patron, Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, attends the launch of a new biography of Gerald Durrell at Harper-Collins, Fulham Palace Road, London SW7.

LECTURES

Royal Academy of Arts, at the Society of Antiquaries, London W1: MaryAnne Stevens, "Monet's Perception of Modernity", 1pm.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; F Company Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am. Band provided by the Scots Guards.



LITERARY NOTES

DEBBIE TAYLOR

Time to get out of the kitchen

SPRING IS the season of the Orange Prize for women's fiction. It now sprawls like marmalade across nearly three months: from the inaugural Orange Lecture this Monday, through the Orange Breakfast at the end of the month (when the long short-list is announced), on through to the June Declaration of the short short-list and the final prizewinner a week later.

And once again, as every year, it will be open season on the award's feminist agenda as the media get their knickers in a familiar twist about anything smacking of positive discrimination. What may not be realised, however, is that this whole debate is being quietly overtaken by events. Inexorably women are sloughing off decades of under-education and gaining on men in the race for literary distinction.

From birth, women display a greater aptitude for and love of words. Girls speak read and write earlier than boys and stay ahead in verbal skills all the way through school. As women, they tend to buy more books than men, borrow more from libraries and spend more time reading. In fact, there are now twice as many women literary graduates than men; twice as many enrolling on creative-writing courses.

Of course, this doesn't

mean it's all petals in the rose garden. All the evidence shows a woman author's path is strewn with many more thorns than a man's.

For a start, women simply have less time to devote to their writing. The UK's most recent national survey found women doing twice as much housework and childcare as men. Candia McWilliam spoke for many when she claimed that "one child equals two unwritten books".

It's no coincidence that so many prominent woman authors, today and throughout history, are either childless or lesbian or both. Confidence is another problem. A series of recent surveys and market research carried out found that, despite their passion for writing, women are over 50 per cent less likely than men to submit their work for publication.

In a sense this is not surprising. The world of literature, as reflected in the national press, is still a very masculine domain, with twice as many books by men published and over twice as many reviewed - by reviewers who are three times as likely to be men.

Then there are the literary prizes. Men have outnumbered women by around two to one on all the major shortlists for the last 30 years. In poetry the imbalance is even greater, with men win-

ning over nine out of every 10 prizes.

But those who look carefully enough see that the tide is on the turn. Never before have so many women taken writing quite so seriously. The two last censuses revealed a quite dramatic increase in the numbers of women taking up writing as a career. From being just 34 per cent of people whose main occupation was writing in 1981, the number of women had increased to 43 per cent a decade later. Come 2001, if the trend continues, female writers will outnumber male writers for the first time in history. And that's not including the many thousands writing part-time, in snatched and stolen time, in "that still blue almost eternal hour before the baby's cry".

It's time to stop picking at the scabs of an old debate and look at the bigger picture. Yes, it is more difficult for women writers to make a mark. But hey: they are good, they are on their way, they are getting there. And they deserve any prize that's going. As the judges digest the submissions for the Orange Prize, it's time for the spoilers to get out of the kitchen. The cooking time is over.

Debbie Taylor edits *Mislexia*, the new magazine for women writers launched this month

CASE SUMMARIES

22 MARCH 1999

THE FOLLOWING notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the *All England Law Reports*.

Costs

R v Liverpool Magistrates' Court, ex p Aliakhi QBD, Div Ct (Keane LJ, Blotfield J) 5 March 1999.

ONA true construction of s 16(1) of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 any magistrates' court had the power to make a defendant's costs order; the power was not restricted to the particular bench of magistrates who had actually dismissed the case against the defendant. Furthermore, there was nothing in the statute which stated that costs orders had to be made timeously.

Stuart Mills (RM, Broudie & Co, Liverpool) for the applicant.

Tax

Hilldown Holdings plc v IR Commrs, Ch D (Arden J) 11 March 1999.

THE WORD "payment" meant "effective payment" in relation to a payment made to an employer out of its approved pension scheme, giving rise to a tax liability under s 601 of the Taxes Act 1988. Where the payment to the employer was found to be in breach of trust and was returned to the pension fund by order of the court, there was no "effective payment" and the Revenue had to repay the tax.

David Oliver QC and Nigel Giffen (Herbert Smith) for the taxpayer; Im Chick QC and Richard Gillis UR Sobri for the Crown.

Sentencing

Attorney-General's Reference (No 71 of 1998), CA, Crim Div (Judge LJ, Sachs, Klevan JJ) 8 March 1999.

WHERE AN offender who had

already been convicted of a "serious offence" within s 2(5) of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997 committed a robbery which, in order to qualify as a second "serious offence" making him liable to a sentence of life imprisonment, required that the offender had had possession of a firearm, it was sufficient that the offence had been committed as a joint enterprise where a firearm had been used, even though the offender himself had never had possession of it.

Nail Moore (CPS) for the Attorney General; Louise Godfrey QC (Orchard Stowe Bateson, Leeds) for the offender.

Employment

Barber and ors v RJB Mining (UK) Ltd, QBD (Gage J) 3 March 1999.

REGULATION 4(1) of the Working Time Regulations 1998, which set a maximum weekly working time for all workers covered by the regulations, imposed a contractual obligation on the parties which was capable of remedy in the civil courts, and accordingly the employment tribunal did not have exclusive jurisdiction over claims arising out of the regulations.

Brian Longstaff QC (Keeble Hanson, Sheffield) for the plaintiffs; Nicholas Underhill QC (Frostfields) for the defendant.

Reinsurance

Wurttembergische Aktiengesellschaft Versicherungs-Beteiligungsgesellschaft v Home Insurance Co, CA (Gutler-Stoss, Aldous, Brooke LJ) 9 March 1999.

A JUDGE deciding a preliminary issue in the course of prolonged litigation was wrong to use the expression "persuasive obiter dicta" in relation to earlier judgments on other pre-

liminary issues in the same litigation, since those judgments were binding only in relation to the matters which they had purported to decide.

Jonathan Hirst QC, Neil Calver (Barlow Lyde & Gilbert) for the appellants; Mark Howard QC, Robin Dicker (Holman Fenwick & Willan) for the respondents.

Extradition

Re Burke, QBD, Div Ct (Rose LJ, Mitchell J) 16 March 1999.

THE WORD "sentence" in art VII(4) of Sch 1 to the United States of America (Extradition) order 1976 was not confined to a sentence of imprisonment, but included a term of supervised release to be served following a term in custody. Such a supervised release was not an ancillary order, but was an integral part of the sentence passed. Furthermore, an order to pay a sum of money by way of restitution and a fine also fell within the article as being a sentence.

John Hardy (Christmas & Sheehan) for the applicant; Roy Brown (CPS) for the Governor of Brixton Prison and the United States Government.

Adoption

Re B (a minor) (adoption order: nationality), Hmns of Lords (Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, Lord Hoffmann, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Batten and Lord Millet) 11 March 1999.

WHEN CONSIDERING whether to make an adoption order under s 6 of the Adoption Act 1976, the court should not, in determining whether the child's welfare called for adoption, ignore benefits which would result solely from a change in immigration status.

Michael Harrison QC, David Jones (Blake Lophorn) for the appellants; Ashley Underwood (Treasury Solicitor) for the respondents.

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

ken, n. and v.

A week goes by / In which some one doesn't die. / So we really mustn't grumble very much. / One can picture this harmonising vicar

and curate: "though we fill the cup of duty to the very brim / Ideas may sometimes swim / Into our ken". Curiously, *ken* - with many European equivalents and defined by Johnson as "view; reach of sight" - is seemed rare by the OED, when it was surely given currency by Kenneth Horne's wireless show.

Couple lead rush for 'smart babies'

INCREASING NUMBERS of infertile British women are travelling to the United States to buy "intelligent eggs" from Ivy League students for up to £15,000.

One young, professional couple from London has just conceived after selecting a donor with an IQ of 153 on the Internet. British law does not allow a woman to be paid for donating her eggs and the demand far outweighs the supply. Currently, 5,000 women are waiting for donor eggs.

Fertility clinics in the US are offering eggs from students at top universities with high IQs who identify themselves as having drive and ambition.

"Intelligence is one of the main attributes people are looking for. Future parents are often more willing to be flexible on health history than they are on academic achievement and intelligence," said Teri Royal, director of the California-based Options National Fertility Registry.

The woman who sought eggs via the Internet, a 31-year-old lawyer, said: "We wanted someone with a good college education, who was intelligent with a cheerful personality."

The woman, who has been married for six years, had failed to conceive using fertility drugs. She turned to the service in the US because she did not want to wait for an egg donor in Britain - a minimum of three years. "I have wanted to be a mother all my life and was devastated when I could not conceive naturally," she said.

One in six couples in Britain has problems conceiving.

BY CHERRY NORTON
Social Affairs Correspondent

In 1997, 800 egg donors came forward but the discrepancy between supply and demand means that many couples wait several years for an egg.

Money is usually the incentive for the American college students who donate eggs. Mary Johnson, a 26-year-old accountant from Los Angeles who has an IQ of 150, has donated eggs three times at £2,000 each time.

"The first time was at the end of my final year at college when I was desperate to pay off my university debts," said Ms Johnson, who is single and childless. Two sets of twin boys have been produced from her donor eggs.

"I would not have done it if there had been no financial compensation. There is a lot of time and effort involved and it is a difficult physical process. You really have to want to help people, too, to go through with it," she said.

Fertility clinics in Britain say that the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority's rule of allowing only egg donors' expenses to be paid was ambiguous. "We can pay their expenses but we cannot pay them directly," said Professor Ian Craft, director of the London Gynaecology and Fertility Centre. "It is not very honourable; a controlled payment would be much more satisfactory. We should be able to offer a selection of donors here. It is not right that couples are forced into going abroad for fertility treatment."



The herald, Jerome Whitney, blowing the horn yesterday as members of the Order of Druids perform a ceremony celebrating the spring equinox at Tower Hill in London. There are about 15,000 Druids in Britain today
John Voos

Labour backs prying by CSA

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

NEW POWERS to allow the Child Support Agency to investigate the income of errant fathers were defended yesterday by Alistair Darling, the Social Security Secretary.

The agency is to be allowed unprecedented access to Inland Revenue computer files to cross-check on the income of absent fathers. It will enable the agency to deduct maintenance payments according to a new sliding scale to simplify the system: 15 per cent of their net income for the first child; 20 per cent for the second; and 25 per cent for three or more.

The Conservative spokesman on social security, Iain Duncan Smith, said the plans would be an "appalling breach of privacy".

But Mr Darling said it was intolerable that rich absent fathers "running around in a BMW" should pay nothing toward their children's upkeep. "Most people would say it's entirely reasonable that where that father has money, and sometimes quite substantial amounts of money, we should require him to pay for that child," Mr Darling said.

The Social Security Secretary will be announcing anti-fraud measures this week. He is also planning longer-term changes to the law to let agency inspectors ask the Inland Revenue and National Insurance authorities for details of where unco-operative absent parents worked.

Mr Darling told BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*: "We want to ensure fathers accept that if they help bring a child into the world they are responsible for that child for the rest of its life."

"The current situation, where you can find a mother has been left with a child but the father is running around in a BMW and apparently the CSA can't do anything about it, is intolerable."

Tories to woo Scots with low tax

SCOTTISH TORIES will fight the Holyrood election as the party of low taxation, their leader, David McLetchie, declared yesterday.

In his keynote address to the Scottish Tory conference in Perth, he said: "The clearest choice of all in this election is tax." He warned that Scottish taxpayers would be in line for a financial pounding with a Labour administration in Holyrood with road tolls, higher business rates and a tourist tax.

And he added: "As far as the Liberals are concerned if Jim Wallace is successful in slipping

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

under the duvet with Donald Dewar you'll get more taxes still."

He said the Scottish National Party would make people in Scotland the highest taxed in the UK, adding: "It's not a penny for Scotland - it's a penalty for being Scots." The Tories, he declared, would stand for "no new taxes, no increased taxes, a parliament that lives within its means just like every family in Scotland has to do."

Mr McLetchie said Scottish

people wanted the parliament to tackle problems in health and education, adding: "They don't want the parliament condemned to endless years of constitutional wrangling. We have had 30 years of debate about the constitution in Scottish politics. The people made their decision in the referendum. We accept and respect that decision. The SNP don't. They want to carry on the war."

Among the cruelest ironies at the Perth gathering was the rapturous ovation accorded to the former cabinet ministers Sir Michael Forsyth and Sir Malcolm Rifkind. The elderly ma-

trons and retired business folk who make up much of what is left of the Conservative faithful north of the border would love either of these two political heavyweights to lead them into the home-rule era. But both have turned their backs on the parliament. Instead of the biting wit and energy of Forsyth or the gravitas of Rifkind, the party has to applaud the stolid performances of Mr McLetchie.

Thanks to the fairer voting system to be used for the elections on 6 May, the Tories are expected to win around a dozen

seats in the 129-member parliament. Under the traditional first-past-the-post method they would probably have got none.

No party is likely to have an overall majority and Mr McLetchie signalled that he would use any deciding influence to maintain the union with 'England' - pledging to have no truck with anything that helped the "separatists".

Labour was quick to distance itself from any idea of a "grand unionist coalition" - even a hint of a deal with the Conservatives could be an electoral kiss of death.

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headed by an adult with no education. Maternal primary survival prospects, says the report.

It also points to positive examples of progress in Uganda, for instance, where a primary education enrolment pupils in less than a year. Chirac also praised Mali and Burkina Faso - two of the world's poorest countries - for community-level initiatives.

Serbs drive thousands from homes

ANOTHER WAVE of human misery swept across Kosovo yesterday, with thousands more Albanians abandoning their homes for fear of a Yugoslav offensive backed by tanks and artillery. Cars, tractors hitched to trailers, and horse-drawn carts hauled the huddled ones down muddy tracks towards the relative safety of small towns in the Drenica region while, in the distance, shells crashed into the hillsides.

By Emma Daly in Glogovac, Kosovo

you." As he spoke, another shell sounded. Soldiers of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) organised an evacuation of the civilian population in Drenica, dispatching tractors to outlying houses to collect people. Others simply walked out. "Don't take photographs, bring bombs," one man called out.

"We left our women and children in Cirez, in the mosque and the school, yesterday morning," said Gani Krasniqi, one of about 20 men in Drenica. "They didn't have any food, and we don't know what happened to them. The road out is blocked now by soldiers and police."

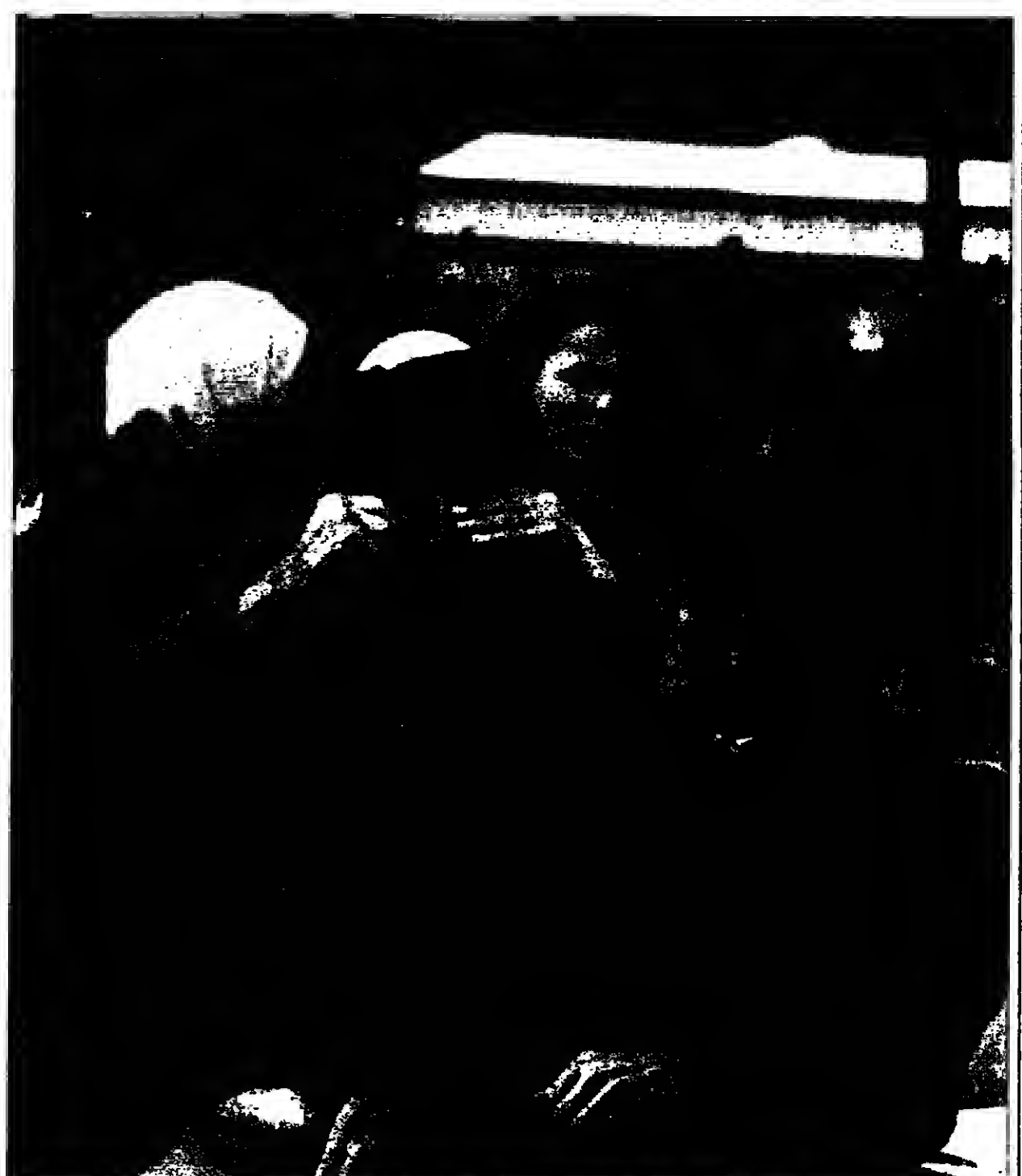
Small children and elderly women wept, and everyone told the same story: the Serbs were close and the Albanians were terrified. "We escaped along the road during the night," said Mr Krasniqi. We don't have any place to stay. I don't know where we will sleep tonight."

Earlier that day, aid agencies including the United Nations, had delivered food, blankets and medicines to a warehouse in a suburb of Glogovac, where as many as 20,000 newly displaced people were seeking shelter. "We can't go to Glogovac because it is dangerous to be in the city - for example, there were massacres in Srbica," said Mr Krasniqi. "We heard that seven or eight people were killed there."

The men, all from the village of Gladna Selo, where only a few days ago people were opening their homes to refugees, said they were too frightened to stay in the area but did not want to bring their families along the road to Glogovac, because of the Serbian advance. Now they feared their loved ones were trapped, with hundreds more from Gradica, since the road north of Cirez leads through Polance, scene of heavy fighting yesterday.

Along the main road towards Srbica, Serbian forces waited around tanks firing the red, white and blue flag of Yugoslavia. But they had not managed to link up with their comrades attacking the KLA from the north, around Polance. In Srbica, policemen ordered journalists to leave immediately, as armoured personnel carriers jostled for space with army vehicles and masked police.

South of the town, rebels fought a fierce battle with Yugoslav troops backed by tanks and artillery trying to take control of the road to Glogovac. One bridge had been destroyed in the fighting, another was mined and a third was slightly damaged by explosives. "Go back, it's not safe," said one Yugoslav



Albanian refugees trying to escape the fighting in the Drenica region of Kosovo yesterday

Chirac escapes judicial inquiry

By John Lichfield in Paris

THE PRESIDENT is off the hook for now. Despite written evidence suggesting that Jacques Chirac knew about the illegal funding of his Gaullist party, a public prosecutor has ruled he cannot be investigated through the normal judicial channels.

But the legal and political reverberations of the scandal of the "300 fictitious employees" at the Paris town hall are far from over. The Elysee Palace is demanding an investigation into how the French news agency, Agence France-Press (AFP) came to be given the wrong story on Friday night. AFP reported that the President was to be placed under formal investigation, setting alarm bells ringing all over France.

In fact, the public prosecutor had accepted a controversial ruling by the country's constitutional watchdog that the president of the republic was immune from investigation for any alleged crime, whether committed before or during his term of office. The constitutional council ruled in January that a president could be investigated only by a special court - the Haute Cour de Justice de la République.

The case arises from a three-year-old investigation of the financing of Mr Chirac's neo-Gaullist party, the RPR. The investigating judge, Patrick Desmure, has found evidence that Paris taxpayers were unwittingly funding the party in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Scores of RPR officials (up to 300 according to one account) were on the city pay-roll.

Mr Chirac was mayor of Paris and president of the RPR at the time. Until last month, no direct evidence had emerged that he knew of what was happening. Judge Desmure has now found a letter from December 1993, in which Mayor Chirac talks of the "excellent" work of a phantom city official for a senior RPR executive.

The official was employed by Paris town hall to liaise with "agricultural organisations" (hardly a priority for a city government). She worked full-time from RPR headquarters. The date of the letter is significant. It is several months after an "amnesty" was declared on illegal party funding in return for a promise by politicians of all colours to mend their ways.

Whatever the truth, peace has never been more fragile in the Caucasus, where those linking their future to Russia, albeit loosely, face Islamic fundamentalists wanting the region for Allah, and where the old tradition of blood revenge lives on.

Chechen president escapes roadside bomb

CHECHNYAS moderate President, Aslan Maskhadov, narrowly escaped with his life yesterday when a roadside bomb exploded within seconds of his motorcade speeding by.

The assassination attempt, the fourth he has survived, added to tension across the entire Caucasus after Friday's carnage at a bombed market in neighbouring North Ossetia.

The Itar-Tass news agency said four of the President's bodyguards were injured by yesterday's bomb, planted in a sewer and timed to go off when the Chechen leader passed on his way to his residence in Grozny. Shooting broke out after the blast, which blasted a 9-foot by 16-foot crater in the road and blew out windows in surrounding buildings.

As usual, some presidential aides saw the "hand of the Russian special services" in the attack. Caucasians routinely blame the successors to the KGB for trying to destabilise their region.

Relations between Moscow and the breakaway Muslim region are more tense now than at any time since the 1994-96 war.

However, an official spokesman, Movlen Salomov, said "bandits" were trying to prevent a search for peace between President Maskhadov and Russian politicians. The Chechen leader, frustrated by Moscow's unwillingness to grant his region independence, has said he lacks confidence in Yevgeny Primakov, the Prime Minister, and asked to see President Boris Yeltsin.

The Russians are now also wondering whether militant Chechens might be behind the market bombing in the North Ossetian capital of Vladikavkaz. Another possibility is that the bomb was planted to provoke ethnic tension between the Orthodox Christian Ossetians and the Muslim Ingush, relatives of the Chechens. In the Second World War, Stalin deported the Ingush and transferred a piece of their territory to North Ossetia, a decision that still ripples.

Yesterday was declared a day of mourning across Russia for more than 60 people who died in the market blast. Most were poor civilians who had been queuing for cheap vegetables. The Interior Minister, Sergei Stepashin, said he believed only religious fanatics could have carried out such a cruel attack.

Whatsoever the truth, peace has never been more fragile in the Caucasus, where those linking their future to Russia, albeit loosely, face Islamic fundamentalists wanting the region for Allah, and where the old tradition of blood revenge lives on.

Judge Desmure can reject the prosecutor's ruling and proceed with a formal investigation of the President. Alternatively, he can refer the case to the Haute Cour, or drop the investigation entirely.

Aslan Maskhadov: Fourth assassination attempt

By Helen Womack in Moscow

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Prodi leads race for Europe's top job

ROMANO PRODI, the former Italian prime minister, was emerging last night as the firm favourite for the presidency of the European Commission, after his candidacy was endorsed by Spain.

Although he has said he is unavailable, Wim Kok, the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, is also viewed as a serious challenger as the horse trading heats up before heads of government meet for the Berlin summit on Wednesday.

Abel Matutes, the Foreign Minister of Spain, said in Brussels: "Prodi has demonstrated that he is competent and qualified to do the job."

Spain's backing for Mr Prodi confirms speculation that Jose Maria Aznar, the centre-right Spanish Prime Minister, would withhold his support from his compatriot Javier Solana, the Nato secretary-general, who was considered a frontrunner.

France is hostile to the idea of appointing another Dutchman to a key EU position. Its candidate for the presidency of the European Central Bank lost out to the Dutchman Wim Duisenberg last year.

One scenario is that Paris would agree to Mr Kok's appointment as Commission chief if Mr Duisenberg relinquished his post within two years.

IN BRIEF

Finnish opposition to take over

THE FINNISH opposition Centre Party looked likely to return to power after narrowly beating the ruling Social Democrats and Conservatives in elections yesterday, according to preliminary results. Electoral commission officials said the Centre won 25.2 per cent of the vote, Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen's SDP got 23 per cent and the co-ruling Conservatives got 21.1 per cent.

Turkish pipeline hit on festival day

AN EXPLOSION hit the Turkish section of an oil pipeline, carrying crude oil from Iraq to Turkey, during a Kurdish new year festival yesterday that is often a focus of separatist violence. Police said sabotage was suspected.

Taliban crackdown on celebration

TALEBAN SOLDIERS in Kabul whipped people with steel wires yesterday for defying a ban on new year celebrations. The centuries-old festival, based on the Persian calendar, was outlawed in Afghanistan last year.

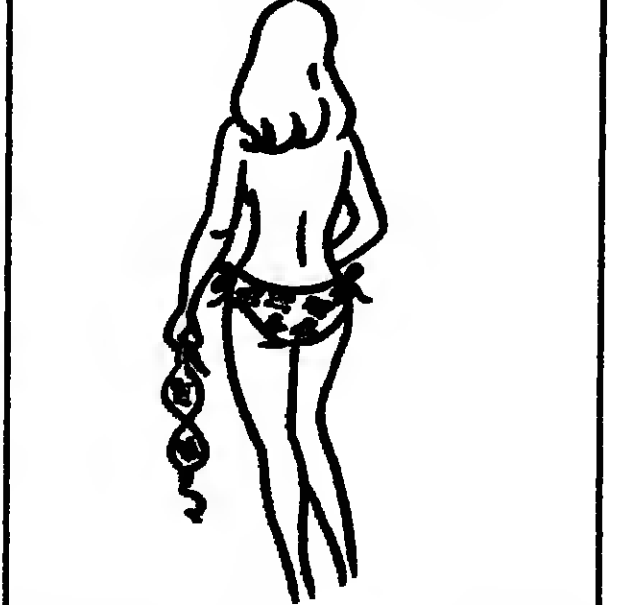
'No secrets' from China

CHINA HAS had almost complete access to US nuclear weapons secrets over the past two decades, *Newsweek* reported yesterday, saying: "The penetration is total."

The extent of the damage is such that it "leaves an unsettling possibility: That this was done by American citizens."

A Taiwan-born nuclear scientist was dismissed from his job at Los Alamos two weeks ago after failing a lie-detector test, but he has not been arrested, and FBI sources have indicated that they have no evidence to support charges.

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Brutality of Borneo's smiling killers

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
in Sambas, Indonesian Borneo

EVEN FROM 50 miles away, it was obvious that something awful was happening in Sambas. Our driver had heard the rumours early in the morning, and refused to leave the hotel. In the town of Sinkawang, where we were staying, the shops were closed and shuttered up, although Sambas was more than an hour's drive away. People we met fell into two categories: those who would never be induced to go near the place, and those who could not get there fast enough.

The former were drivers, shopkeepers, the women working in the hotel - they stayed inside, or timidly went about their errands. The latter were all men - armed and dressed for war, piled into trucks, clinging to the roofs of minibuses, and waving at us as they drove by, shouting: "Sambas! Sambas!", and pointing up the road - the only road in this remote north-western corner of Indonesian Borneo.

There was almost no other normal traffic, and it thinned out completely the further north we drove. Just as on the previous day, there were fires burning in the abandoned villages, and 10 minutes from Sambas we could see great billows of smoke rising up a few miles away.

The town itself was deserted, although a fire burnt in the market place. At a T-junction we came upon a massed group of men, perhaps from one of the trucks that had passed us earlier. They wore yellow and red bandannas and T-shirts, and carried spears, guns and machetes. They waved down our four-wheel drive, and the morning's horrors began.

From the direction of the smoke, a man rode up on a motorcycle. His jacket and trousers were wet with blood, but when he saw us he spoke words of welcome. "We don't care about your race," he said. "We don't care about your religion. Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Dayak, Malay, Chinese or Bugi - all are welcome here. We



just don't want Madurese. All of the Madurese must leave." He held up an object threaded on to a piece of string around his neck. It was a human ear.

There are two things that make this conflict such a baffling and disturbing one, and the first and most striking is its brutal savagery. In the past week at least 73 people have been killed in this area, the Indonesian province of West Kalimantan. A few may have died in their burning houses, but most have been killed in cold blood with blade, spear or bullet. After death (one prays that it was afterwards) their bodies had been viciously mutilated.

But the second mystery is why all this is going on - for, to the unaccustomed foreign eye, there is little difference between the perpetrators of this horrifying violence and its victims.

Unlike the conflict between Christians and Muslims still smouldering on the island of Ambon, this is nothing to do with religion, and it has no obvious political overtones. Apart from West Kalimantan's large ethnic Chinese population, its people have few obvious physical differences. Instead, this is a war about land and culture, and the enormous social and economic tensions that strain against one another beneath the surface of this vast country.

The victims are Muslim settlers from Madura, a dry island off the east coast of Java, where people are famous for their tough and sometimes brutal code of honour. For decades they have migrated from their barren home to the lush forests



Tribesmen burning the home of a Madurese settler in the Indonesian province of Kalimantan in Borneo during renewed ethnic violence

Anastasia Vrachnos/AP

of Borneo, and trouble has frequently followed. The island's other inhabitants accused them of thuggishness and the theft of land, although it is hard to know whether the grievance is genuine or whether the Madurese are another victim of ethnic scapegoating. Two years ago, as many as 3,000 Madurese were beheaded and cannibalised by Dayaks living inland from here. Now the sen-

timent has spread to Borneo's other ethnic groups the Malays, the Buginese from Sulawesi, and the Chinese.

For all the brutality, this is more than just a battle between young thugs. Over the weekend, I met teachers, civil servants and tourist guides, all of them actively in sympathy with the killings. The security forces are playing a role which is, at best, passive, at

worst collusive. Yesterday we were waved through three military checkpoints manned by armed soldiers doing nothing to protect the Madurese in Sambas. But the territory is so vast, and their numbers so few, that there is probably very little that they can do.

The attack on Sambas involved at least 1,000 people. By the time we arrived the worst of it was over, and attention was

focused on the burning Madurese houses, which cast a fierce heat over the sandy road. Trucks were bringing in bottles of water and packets of noodles for the attackers, who sat around, cheerfully waving as we passed by.

Two of the Madurese had been killed, we were told, but the rest had escaped into the jungle. In the distance we could hear gunshots from the hunt-

ing parties sent in to track them down.

One laughing man produced a severed human arm and happily posed with it for photographs. You expect to feel afraid on such occasions but actually they are banal. The killers were smiling, pleased to see us and keen to show off their trophies. What do you say when a young man approaches and politely of-

fers you a lump of human heart?

We drove back through the town market where a charred human femur lay on the road among the embers of a fire. A Dayak man approached, holding a lump of what he said was human meat. He popped it into his mouth and chewed expressionlessly. I asked him the first thing that came into my head, and he said: "Delicious."

Gunfire as Malays kill 300,000 pigs

MALAYSIAN SOLDIERS firing shotguns and covered in plastic overalls and face-masks slaughtered pigs yesterday in an all-out effort to control a virus believed to have killed more than 50 people.

The tranquillity of rural farms was shattered by the sound of gunfire and the squeals of frightened animals as soldiers exterminated pigs in villages worst affected by the outbreak of Japanese encephalitis. Health authorities used tractors and bulldozers to bury the carcasses of the slain animals.

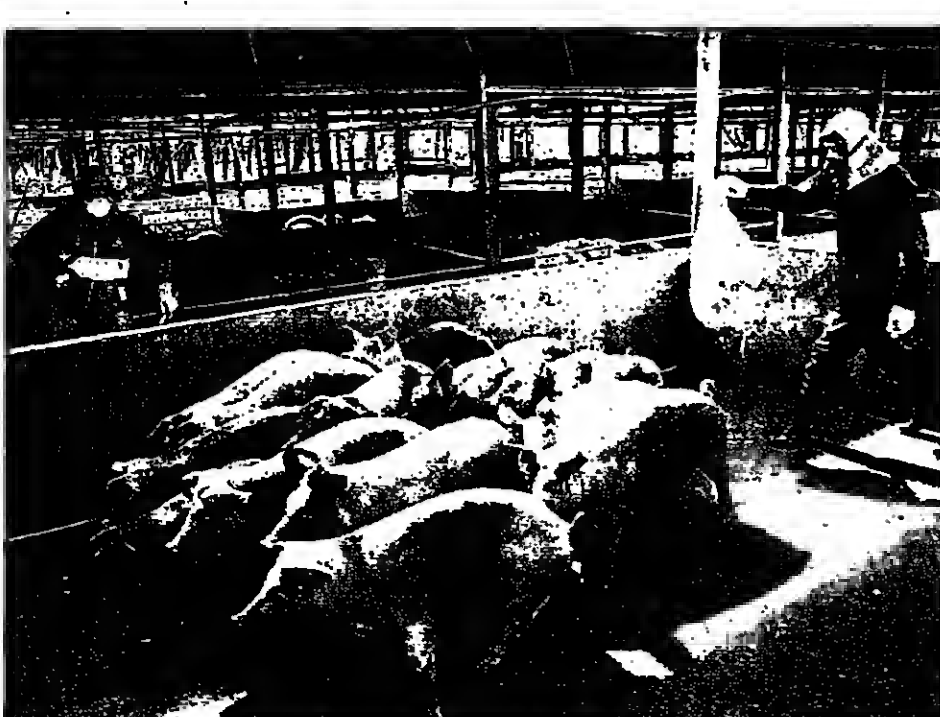
The virus, which attacks the brain, causing high fever, vomiting and coma, is transmitted from pigs to humans by Culex mosquitoes, which thrive in swamps and open drains. The operation, which began

BY VINCENT THIAN
in Sungai Nipah

late on Saturday, originally called for the destruction of 65,000 animals over the weekend. But only about 2,000 pigs were killed on the first day, according to newspaper reports from the state of Negri Sembilan, which is 100 kilometres (62 miles) southeast of the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur.

The killing got off to a slow start because of rain and a shortage of bulldozers. Malaysia's health minister said, Malaysia eventually plans to kill all 300,000 pigs that are living in the affected area, the national news agency Bernama said.

More than 30 people have died in the area, which has a



Malaysian soldiers herd pigs together for slaughter in Sungai Nipah

AP

population of 11,000, bringing the nationwide death toll to 53 since October. Nearly all the victims have lived or worked near pig farms. No further deaths were reported yesterday.

Hundreds of families have already abandoned their villages. Police said that the few who re-

mained in the prosperous pig-rearing district had been evacuated to enable soldiers and police to begin the slaughter.

Fire and rescue helicopters dattered over the villages on Saturday to dump 9,000 litres of insecticide on swamps where mosquitoes breed. "Our aim is

to destroy the mosquito larvae in the canals and ponds," said Soh Chai Hock, the region's fire chief.

The federal government ordered vaccinations for 300,000 people and 500,000 pigs across the country in an attempt to control the disease.

Poachers, weavers and a market sting

CITY LIFE
DELHI

CHANDNI CHOWK is the most historic but also the most hysterical corner of Delhi: bustling Shah Jahan's magnificent Red Fort, the main street sliced through by the British after the uprising of 1857 is today a maelstrom of dilapidated cycle rickshaws and trucks and taxis and porters and shoppers all fighting their way through the capital's most teeming bazaar.

Porters pad down the middle of the road with huge squashed bundles on their heads. Small schoolchildren in powder-blue uniforms travel crammed like battery hens into a wooden box hauled by a groaning cyclist. Fat ladies saunter in rickshaws to buy jewels, their young daughters perched on the axle.

Under a black marble statue of Gandhi outside Delhi's vaguely rococo old town hall, a posse of plainclothes policemen sit sweating in a Hindustan Ambassador, waiting for the phone to ring.

On the far side of this whirlpool of traffic, on an upper floor, is a shop that sells shawls: pastelina and cashmere for the wealthy, coarser wool for the rest. Samples are displayed on the walls. But the most desirable item sold by this shop is neither displayed nor advertised.

Shatoosh, which means "king of wools" is the finest wool in the world. But its trade is illegal, because it is leading to the extinction of a Tibetan antelope, the chiru, which produced it.

Chiru roam the vast spaces of the Tibetan plateau. Poachers shoot them in the winter,

when their coats are at their thickest, then shear off the wool. The thread makes its way via Nepal to Kashmir; the only place where it is still legal, where highly skilled craftsmen weave it into shawls of extraordinary delicacy. In Delhi, although illegal, the trade is flourishing, and this shop is one of many that trade in it under the counter.

Yesterday a young Japanese woman visited the shop and said she wanted to buy a large number of shatoosh shawls, for which she would pay in dollars. The shopkeeper pointed out that she could buy them more safely and conveniently in Tokyo, and gave her the details of his agent there. Yes, she said, but there it will be twice the price. The shopkeeper agreed to bring several dozen shawls for her to look at the next day. The time agreed was 3pm.

Now it is exactly 3pm and Yoko Shimizu (not her real name) is back in the shop, crosslegged on the padded floor, and the colour has drained from her face and there is a tremor in her voice. Because she is not a bona fide customer but an undercover agent of the Japan Wildlife Conservation Society. Working in tandem with the Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI), she has agreed to be the bait in this shatoosh trap.

The shawls are produced, several removed from their plastic wrappers. Anyone who has touched shatoosh can recognise it at once. This is the stuff Yoko has no doubt. She tells her Indian escort, who has a mobile phone: "Tell the

driver to bring the car." This is the agreed signal.

It is 3.10pm. In the hot car, the phone rings. From this car and from a blue Mahindra Commando in front, officers from the police and the city's wildlife department and a senior representative of the WPSI uncoil themselves, fight their way through the rickshaws, climb a dark, steep staircase, and suddenly the small shawl shop is very full of people and very quiet.

One of the shopkeepers hisses to Ms Shimizu: "You must leave immediately! You must leave immediately!" The man from the WPSI, who looks like anybody's kind uncle and is therefore a good man for the job, takes her arm tenderly and leads her out of the fray. Ninety-two shatoosh shawls are counted out under the eyes of the police, who watch very keenly because each shawl has a street value of at least £500, and for even one to disappear would be a serious matter. When the paperwork is done, the shawls are packed into a box that is sealed, and they and the owner of the shop are taken away to the police station.

The shopkeeper will spend tonight in the station lock-up tomorrow he will be charged. If WPSI is successful, bail will be refused and he will have a few more days in jail to contemplate the error of his ways.

The case will then vanish into the labyrinth of the Indian legal system, its conclusion perhaps years in the future. Saving the chiru is a long, slow and uncertain task.

PETER POPHAM

Short sees funding at work in India

CLARE SHORT, the Secretary of State for International Development, flies to Delhi today for a six-day visit to inspect how her department's money is being put to use.

Under Labour, what used to be called Overseas Aid has been given a higher priority and a bigger budget, and India is a major beneficiary.

BY PETER POPHAM
in Delhi

Development aid to India deserves to be controversial. For one thing, the government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee seems to be bashful about the whole subject - the ideology of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party centres on self-sufficiency.

And why should a nation rich and sophisticated enough to produce nuclear weapons and the missile systems to deliver them deserve British charity? If India is demanding a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council, should not it teach its own children to read and to write?

India has, in fact, been making strides in that direction. But after 51 years as a free country, nearly half the population remains illiterate and, as illiteracy has a direct impact on population growth, it is arguably in the whole world's interest to get the poorest Indians reading and writing.

After arriving this afternoon in Delhi, a city that is rapidly making a name as one of the most lawless in Asia (six murders reported on Saturday alone), Ms Short flies to Orissa on the east coast.

Orissa is one of the six states that the Department for International Development is backing new Unicef and Indian government programmes to improve sanitation, hygiene and water supply.

A region of wild, natural beauty and chronic underdevelopment, and where a quarter of the population are tribespeople, Orissa has recently seen an upsurge of violence between Hindu and Christian factions within tribal villages. Only last week, hundreds of Christian homes in one village were razed by a Hindu mob.

Ms Short will also visit Andhra Pradesh in the south, where the department is spending £46.5m on a programme to build thousands of new primary schools. Under the leadership of the



Clare Short will meet Atal Bihari Vajpayee



chief minister, Chandrababu Naidu, Andhra Pradesh is rapidly becoming the most go-ahead state in the country. Ms Short's department is one of many international organisations, including the World Bank, pouring money into the state's coffers, to prove that Mr Naidu's mantra of education, liberalisation and globalisation does indeed work wonders. The British minister can expect a warm welcome.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPICE

MARE ST. LONDON SE 45A
(Charity Ref. No. 2913251)

"For all the happiness mankind can gain is not in pleasure but rest from pain," John Dryden (1631-1700)

Day after day, night after night you have helped us to provide rest from pain. May the happiness gained be yours and always.

Sister Superior

SATURDAY'S LOTTERY UPDATE.

Draw date: 20/3/99. The winning numbers: 13, 17, 28, 29, 46, 49. Bonus number: 28.

Total Sales: £81,515,275. Prize Fund: £27,982,323 (45% of ticket sales plus £4,410,472 Rollover amount).

CATEGORY	NO OF WINNERS	AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER
Match 6 (Jackpot)	3	£4,474,238	£13,422,717
Match 5 plus bonus ball	6	£173,312	£2,772,992
Match 5	827	£2,088	£1,732,585
Match 4	51,805	£73	£3,767,165
Match 3	1,035,108	£10	£10,351,080
TOTALS	1,087,558		£32,046,519

Total Sales including Instant and Wednesday Draw: £100,825,405.

Total week's contribution to Good Causes: £27,100,000.

Breakage (prices rounded down to nearest £1): £48,276.

© Camelot Group plc. Players must be 16 or over.

Maybe, just maybe... THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

In the event of any discrepancy in the above, the data contained in Camelot's central computer system shall prevail.



killers

weavers
let sting

life

life

life

DATE

Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner
News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098

BUSINESS

Mega-bids turn the Italian banks industry upside-down

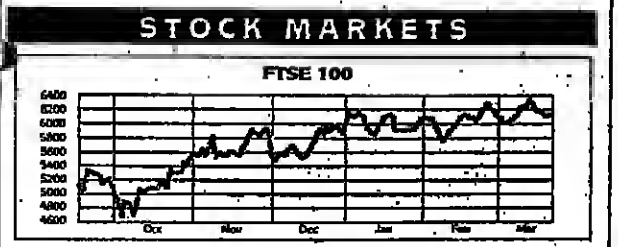
BRIEFING

Italian group wants closer BAe ties
THE ITALIAN engineering group Finmeccanica is keen to deepen its ties with British Aerospace following the BAe-GEC merger. Alberto Lana, the managing director, said in a newspaper interview yesterday that the Italian group, which is to be privatised later this year, would like to see more defence activities transferred to its Anglo-Italian joint venture, Alenia-Marconi-Systems. The joint venture was set up originally with GEC before the BAe merger last year.

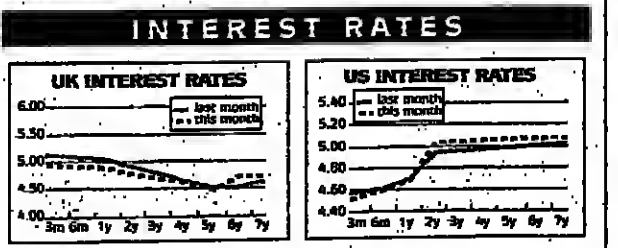


3i puts up £1m for ice-cream
THE VENTURE capital group 3i has put up £1m to finance the building of a new production line for the ice-cream-maker La Glacière. Pictured are (from left) Christopher Stent, finance director; La Glacière; Angela Lane, 3i Southampton; Martin Dockett, managing director, La Glacière.

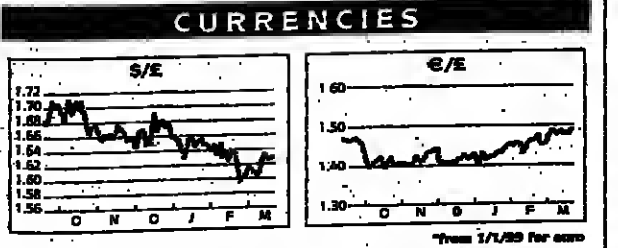
Poor returns from entertainment
THE CONSULTANTS PriceWaterhouseCoopers claim there has been a dramatic erosion of shareholder value in the entertainment and media sector over the last three years. A survey of 30 of the world's top media and entertainment companies shows that while spending on acquisitions and investment rose by 30 per cent, return on capital fell from 10.3 to 8.3 per cent.



Index	Close	Up's	Down's	High	Low	Vol
FTSE 100	4163.20	-119.00	-1.89	4365.4	4099.2	2,643
FTSE 250	5501.00	-59.80	-1.08	5570.9	5427.8	3
FTSE 350	2940.40	-22.80	-1.76	2994.9	2919.4	2.7
FTSE All Share	3497.18	-47.92	-1.38	3593.85	3433.53	2,736
FTSE Smallcap	2386.70	-18.90	-0.80	2438.8	2334.4	3,432
FTSE Fledgling	1300.10	-18.20	-1.42	1317.1	1281.9	4.09
FTSE AIM	851.10	-9.70	-0.44	860.8	841.3	1.06
FTSE Europe 100	2811.04	-0.60	-0.02	2819.27	2802.81	2,029
FTSE Europe 300	1258.10	-1.58	-0.13	1260.07	1256.53	1,395
FTSE Europe 500	2823.49	-27.20	-0.96	2850.78	2796.21	1,597
Dow Jones	11378.78	-88.92	-0.78	11467.70	11289.86	0.863
Nikkei	11082.92	-281.16	-2.50	11364.08	10799.76	3,219
Hang Seng	5099.48	-91.32	-1.82	5190.80	4998.16	1,701
Dax	1299.29	-4.69	-0.36	1303.98	1294.60	1,237
S&P 500	2421.32	-39.79	-1.67	2461.11	2381.53	0.283
Brent 300	6598.80	-36.74	-0.56	6635.54	6562.06	1.61
Brazil Dow Jones	10335.86	-126.64	-1.23	10462.50	10209.12	5,265
Russkum Indx	3422.49	-27.20	-0.79	3449.69	3395.29	1,993
Amsterdam Eex	547.17	-14.15	-2.56	561.32	533.02	1,679
France CAC 40	4215.65	-44.62	-1.07	4260.27	4170.91	1,709
Millan MB30	3722.00	-741.00	-2.03	4463.00	3281.00	1,069
Madrid Ibx 35	10073.70	-21.00	-0.21	10094.8	10052.7	1,732
India SENSEX	5381.15	-23.15	-0.43	5404.3	5357.9	1,546
S Korea Comp	604.22	-19.42	-3.27	623.64	584.80	0.623
Australia ASX	2984.50	-23.20	-0.78	2998.5	2966.7	3,031



Index	3 months	6 months	1 year	2 years	3 years	10 years	15 years	Long term
UK	5.36	-2.20	5.30	-2.36	4.46	-1.52	4.45	-1.46
US	5.00	-0.69	5.28	-0.51	5.16	0.41	5.54	0.36
Japan	0.19	-0.51	0.23	-0.43	1.78	0.01	2.59	0.24
Germany	3.03	-0.48	3.01	-0.73	3.94	-0.97	4.93	-0.54



Index	Friday	Week's	High	Low	Vol
Pound	1.6290	-0.36c	1.6593	1.6193	0.6005
Dollar	0.6139	+0.14p	0.6005	0.6005	0.8571
Gold (\$)	284.25	-0.10	291.25	284.25	130.67
Silver (\$)	102.80	-0.30	107.30	102.80	109.40

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ITALY'S BANKING sector was turned upside down last night after Milan bank Unicredit launched a \$16.4bn (£10bn) share swap offer for smaller rival Banca Commerciale Italiana (BCI) and rivals San Paolo-IMI agreed an even bigger share swap deal with Banca di Roma.

The board of Unicredit announced the offer of eight Unicredit shares for every five BCI shares at a price 17 per cent above Friday's market close. The offer is conditional on acceptance by at least 50 per cent of BCI shareholders and the abolition of a clause that limits the voting rights of any BCI shareholder to 5 per cent.

By FRANCIS KENNEDY in Rome
The resulting colossus, which would be named Eurobanca, would have become Italy's biggest bank - and the fifth-largest in Europe in terms of assets, totalling 500 trillion lire (£175bn) - but for the fact that within hours of its announcement, San Paolo-IMI of Turin and Banca di Roma agreed their own merger, which would itself create a bank with assets of 555 trillion lire (£193bn).

If both mergers succeeded, Italy would have two banks with the financial strength to compete in the euro zone. Unicredit, itself the result of

a previous merger, said the cost savings that would result from a takeover of BCI would enable it to achieve a return on equity of 23 per cent by 2002. BCI was until last week in merger talks with Banca di Roma.

The main victim of what is being described as an earthquake in Italy's rigid banking system looks likely to be the ageing puppetmaster of Italian finance, Enrico Cuccia, 93. Mr Cuccia, the more-than-honorary president of Mediobanca, held intense consultations on Saturday at the bank's 16th-century Milan palazzo to decide on a last-ditch defence or an honourable retreat.

The two mergers would mean that 16 per cent of the capital of Mediobanca would be in the hands of Eurobanca and 8 per cent in San Paolo-Banca di Roma - nearly a quarter of its wealth would no longer be in friendly hands. This would at once undermine Mediobanca's autonomy, and at worst leave it vulnerable to the same companies and banks it has in the past influenced.

The manoeuvres would also bring a greater foreign presence to the sector; Deutsche Bank, Commerzbank and Paribas in Unicredit-BCI, and ABN Amro and Banco di Santander in the San Paolo union. Overseas institutions are unlikely to play the game Mr

Cuccia's way. For decades, this reclusive and brilliant man has had the last say in almost every major industrial or financial operation on Italian soil.

Mr Cuccia's strategy when he founded Mediobanca was simple: be created alliances with the major families of Italian capitalism, from the Agnelli to the Pirelli, and helped them maintain their power, preferably without calling on share issues or bank loans.

He did this through a subtle web of cross-shareholdings between companies and banks that were members of the exclusive Mediobanca club. At times of crisis all could be counted on to vote as a block

and if one was in difficulty the others would help out. Critics say Mediobanca thwarted growth in the entire financial sector.

Analysts say the introduction of the euro, deregulation and the privatisation of many state-controlled banks mean a more competitive environment is inevitable, but Mediobanca has failed to adapt its strategy. Mr Cuccia's close relationship with Lazzar Frères and the Agnelli family - two key players in the Mediobanca constellation - have become strained. Indeed, car maker Fiat, controlled by the Agnelli family, was instrumental in setting up the San Paolo-Banca di Roma deal.

LVMH takes Gucci battle to court

By JOHN WILLCOCK

THE STRUGGLE for control of Gucci, the Italian luxury goods group, is set to move to the courtroom today with French rival Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton (LVMH) determined to use all means to pursue its \$3.1bn hostile bid.

LVMH is applying to the courts in Amsterdam, where Gucci is listed, to overturn a deal Gucci cut with "white knight" Francis Pinault on Friday. Mr Pinault's giant French specialty retail group, Pinault-Printemps Redoute (PPR), paid \$30n (£1.85bn) for 40 per cent of Gucci.

Bernard Arnault, head of LVMH, the world's largest luxury goods maker, says he will go to court to suspend Gucci's entire supervisory board and appoint an independent person to take charge of the company if his bid is not accepted. Mr Arnault also wants to freeze Gucci's deal with PPR, which he claims dilutes existing shareholders in Gucci and hands control to PPR without PPR paying a premium, against the interests of existing shareholders.

On Friday PPR agreed to



Gucci chief executive Domenico De Sole (right) with chief designer Tom Ford

pay \$75 each for 39 million new Gucci shares. The deal was 7 per cent above the market price, and diluted LVMH's holding in Gucci to 23 per cent from 34.4 per cent.

LVMH responded on Friday by saying it would top PPR's bid. It is thought LVMH's offer is worth around \$85 a share. Gucci's supervisory board met in Amsterdam yesterday to discuss the bid battle. It had dismissed LVMH's approaches before last week, but analysts suspect it may change its time

nw Mr Arnault has been forced into a full bid. In particular, if Gucci accepts the bid it will trigger "golden parachutes" worth up to \$100m for Gucci's top people. The company's chief executive, Domenico De Sole, and his chief designer Tom Ford are set to receive at least \$20m each, say industry sources, although under Italian law their contracts are shrouded in secrecy.

The prize is a juicy one. Gucci's profits rose by 62 per cent in the fourth quarter of last year. Gucci refused to comment on the battle last night. A spokesman for LVMH said Gucci had no choice but to accept its bid, as it represented "by far the best option for shareholders. Friday's deal gives PPR control with no premium to shareholders, and it was done without consulting shareholders".

Mr Arnault has said before that he is "sure" his bid to buy all of Gucci will succeed because the price he is offering is "exactly the amount asked for by De Sole when we discussed the hypothesis", according to the Italian business newspaper *Il Sole 24 Ore*.

LVMH said its offer only stands if new Gucci shares that have been issued to PPR are cancelled. LVMH also said its offer hinges on Mr Pinault abandoning plans to transfer his Sanofi beauty unit to Gucci. For Gucci, the PPR alliance provides the cash to pay for its expansion plans and a partner that it does not regard as a competitor.

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The latter three have all left the company in the past few weeks. It is understood the parting was "amicable".

Observers suspect the emergence of this "front running" scandal may have been a key factor in persuading Liffe to switch from open-outcry to screen-based electronic trading. The German electronic exchange, Eurex, has already poached the lucrative Bund futures market from London, prompting Liffe to ditch the traders in their brightly-coloured jackets in favour of automatic systems. Evidence that the open-outcry system was so easily corrupted could only have hastened the switch.

Liffe has put its two-acre Spitalfields site up for sale after ditching plans for a headquarters there with a new, larger open-outcry floor. It will remain in its Cannon Street building.

The move to screen trading means Liffe now sees the Spitalfields site, bought three years ago for £40m, as something of a millstone. However, it hopes to make a £10m profit by selling the site to a developer.

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LVMH said its offer only stands if new Gucci shares that have been issued to PPR are cancelled. LVMH also said its offer hinges on Mr Pinault abandoning plans to transfer his Sanofi beauty unit to Gucci. For Gucci, the PPR alliance provides the cash to pay for its expansion plans and a partner that it does not regard as a competitor.

The latter three have all left the company in the past few weeks. It is understood the parting was "amicable".

Observers suspect the emergence of this "front running" scandal may have been a key factor in persuading Liffe to switch from open-outcry to screen-based electronic trading. The German electronic exchange, Eurex, has already poached the lucrative Bund futures market from London, prompting Liffe to ditch the traders in their brightly-coloured jackets in favour of automatic systems. Evidence that the open-outcry system was so easily corrupted could only have hastened the switch.

Liffe has put its two-acre Spitalfields site up for sale after ditching plans for a headquarters there with a new, larger open-outcry floor. It will remain in its Cannon Street building.

M&S plans sale-and-leaseback deals on 40 high street stores

By JOHN WILLCOCK

MARKS & SPENCER, the troubled stores group, is planning to sell some of its high street shops for around £250 million and double its advertising spend to over £20m a year in an attempt to turn round plummeting sales.

The recently installed chief executive, Peter Salisbury, is in the middle of a complete strategic review of M&S, and a sale-and-leaseback scheme to raise £250m from the sale of 40 high street sites is one of the review's most popular ideas so far.

Once completed, the review will be passed to the M&S board in July. Another initiative to reverse the company's fall in revenues, the appointment of

marketing director James Benfield, is already bearing fruit. Mr Benfield has decided to double the group's advertising spend from its present £10m-£12m.

A spokeswoman for M&S admitted yesterday that the group had been "too English and reserved" in the past. "But we've learnt our lesson," she said. "We've seen the need to get out there and blow our own trumpet. The public need to know why they should spend money with us rather than with anyone else."

In the past M&S has concentrated on advertising store openings and extensions, along



Peter Salisbury: In the middle of strategic review

with print media and TV ads in the run-up to Christmas. This will now be extended to ads in TV, radio, the print media and in-store promotions, said the

spokeswoman. Exactly how the money will be spent is yet to be decided.

The property move will raise most eyebrows in the City. M&S has traditionally left sale-and-leaseback schemes to other retailers like Tesco and Sainsbury's, but now it has realised the potential value of its 290 stores, which mainly inhabit prime high street sites. It also has 22 stores inside large shopping centres.

Under the plan, M&S would sell these stores to institutional landlords such as British Land, Land Securities and the Prudential. It would then lease back the stores. Stores pencilled in for sale include those

in Bath, Oxford, Belfast and York, as well as the two flagship London stores at either end of Oxford Street.

The M&S spokeswoman admitted that urgent action is needed. "The store review is looking at every way we can ourselves, our structures, our supplier base and so on. Everything is up for discussion."

The group is bracing itself for a gruelling results announcement in May when it is expected to reveal one of its worst-ever annual falls in profits.

M&S shares have recovered from their five-year low of 333.5p in January to 371p at close of business on Friday.

Brown 'can afford election tax cut to 20p'

By DIANE COYLE Economics Editor

GORDON BROWN can afford to cut the basic rate of income tax to 20p, according to a report out today. The Government's finances are in good enough shape for the Chancellor to reduce tax by another 2p in time for the election, following the surprise 1p cut in the Budget earlier this month, it says.

Separately, consumer confidence had risen for the third month running even before the tax-cutting Budget, according to the monthly survey by GfK. For the first time since June

there were more optimists than pessimists, with a positive balance of 1 per cent.

"The improvement in sentiment... should not be seen as post-income tax cut euphoria, rather part of a gradual but steady improvement in consumer confidence," according to the survey.

It found 41 per cent of high income households (with more than £25,000 a year) reported an

improvement in their finances. On the other hand, only 7 per cent of the lowest income group (£7,000 or less) said the same, and 37 per cent had seen their personal finances deteriorate.

Today's report from the Centre for Economics and Business Research, a consultancy, argues that recent growth in tax revenues and three years of tough public spending control have put the public sector's finances in a strong starting position. In addition, it says revenues will stay buoyant be-

cause the official predictions take no account of the fact that GDP figures under-record the economy's actual rate of growth. It estimates that construction, the output of intangibles such as software and the "underground" economy are understated.

Taking account of these raises the level of GDP by 3.2 per cent. As they are expanding rapidly, they will also boost growth by more than official figures are likely to show. The CEBR is predicting 0.7 per

cent growth of measured GDP in 1999, but 1.4 per cent actual growth.

This compares with the Treasury's forecast of a 1-1.5 per cent rise in (measured) GDP this year.

Douglas McWilliams, chief executive of the CEBR, said: "The economic prospects for the UK are fairly rosy."

He added: "Because of this and the improved trend in public finances, the Chancellor looks as if he will have the money to announce cuts in

taxes in both the 2000 and 2001 Budgets. A Spring 2001 election could be on the cards."

Income tax cuts would leave the Chancellor able to meet both his fiscal rules, Mr McWilliams said. These say that the Government's current spending should balance over the cycle, and that the ratio of government debt to national income must be sustainable.

Fears of hard landing start to recede

WHEN the present Government took office two years ago, the economy was in the midst of an intense consumer-led boom, and the key issue for the new Chancellor was whether he could control this boom without inducing a hard landing, along with a sharp increase in unemployment. Past history was not encouraging in this regard - without exception, all previous consumer booms of this type in the post-war period had been followed by a period of negative growth in real GDP usually accompanied by new peaks in unemployment.

This time last year, there was still a strong possibility that past patterns might be repeated. Although many cyclical indicators - such as the financial condition of both consumers and companies - were performing much better than in previous cycles, it was an open question whether the considerable tightening in macro-economic policy necessary to control inflation would or would not result in a hard landing.

By the middle of 1998, surveys of business opinion, which had usually proven to be extremely reliable leading indicators for GDP growth, had moved into the extremely depressed territory normally consistent with an outright hard landing. Exports were suffering from a seriously overvalued exchange rate, inventories were rising uncomfortably fast, and consumer confidence was beginning to decline, albeit from extremely high levels.



GAVIN DAVIES

There is still scope for the Bank to ease monetary policy further in order to hit the inflation target

In the spring of 1999, however, there now seems to be a rising probability that the Treasury's economic forecasts will prove broadly correct, implying that real GDP will fall only moderately below trend during the downswing phase of the economic cycle.

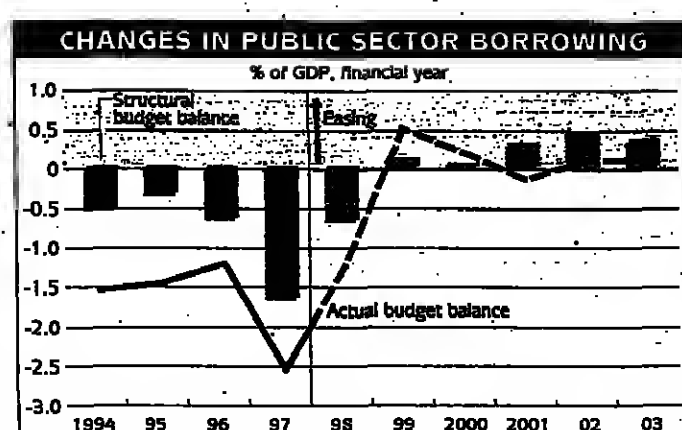
Consumer confidence has started to recover, primarily reflecting the monetary policy easing and the continuing healthy performance of the labour market. Equally importantly, there has been some revival in business confidence, though this remains worryingly depressed.

The Government has maintained its forecasts for real GDP growth unchanged at 1.5 per cent for 1999, and although this remains above the consensus of independent forecasters, there have lately been some indications that the outside consensus is moving upwards towards the Government's projection. The chance of an unpleasant hard landing, while certainly not remote, therefore seems to have receded in recent months.

Why has this happened? The following factors have clearly been important. First, the mix between fiscal and monetary policy has been quite skilfully handled by both the Treasury and the Bank of England. When the Bank was given operational independence in May 1997, many commentators argued that this would lead to problems by separating the two levers of macro-economic policy into competing camps.

It was further alleged by a majority of observers that the new Chancellor was failing to tighten fiscal policy sufficiently, thereby placing too much of the onus for policy tightening at the door of the Bank.

As recently as 12 months ago, however, there were strong pressures on the Chancellor to raise the burden of consumer taxation much more significantly than he actually chose to do. We read much about "one club golfing", with the implication being



that the Government should have tightened fiscal policy much more aggressively in the first two years of its term of office.

In point of fact, however, the Chancellor had embarked upon one of the most significant periods of fiscal tightening in the post-war period. Examining evidence in the 1999 Red Book, it is now clear that the cyclically adjusted budget deficit will have tightened by around 3 per cent of GDP in the first two years of the Brown chancellorship. According to the Red Book, this tightening has come roughly evenly from a reduction in public expenditure as a percentage of GDP and from a rise in tax receipts.

This tightening has had several beneficial effects on the economy -

most notably, it has placed the Government's finances in a clearly sustainable medium-term position. This has helped long-term interest rates to remain subdued, even while the Bank of England was tightening monetary policy, and of course it has also reduced the extent of monetary tightening needed to hit the inflation target. Finally, it left both the Bank and the Treasury in a position to ease macro-economic policy sharply if needed to support economic growth.

The second factor which has been crucial in steering the economy away from a hard landing has been the behaviour of the labour market. In particular, the average earnings figures show that wage inflation started to decline around the middle of last year, despite the fact

that the unemployment rate was substantially below levels which had previously been consistent with stable inflation. For reasons which we do not yet fully understand, it seems that there may have been a structural improvement in labour market conditions, implying that the equilibrium or sustainable level of unemployment may have been permanently reduced.

If this proves to be the case, the medium-term relationship between the average level of unemployment and average inflation will be much more favourable than it has been in the past. In any case, the early reduction in wage inflation pressure has been crucial in allowing the Bank of England to implement a 200 basis points easing in monetary policy in the last six months, and this in turn has been the most significant factor in reducing the risk of a hard landing.

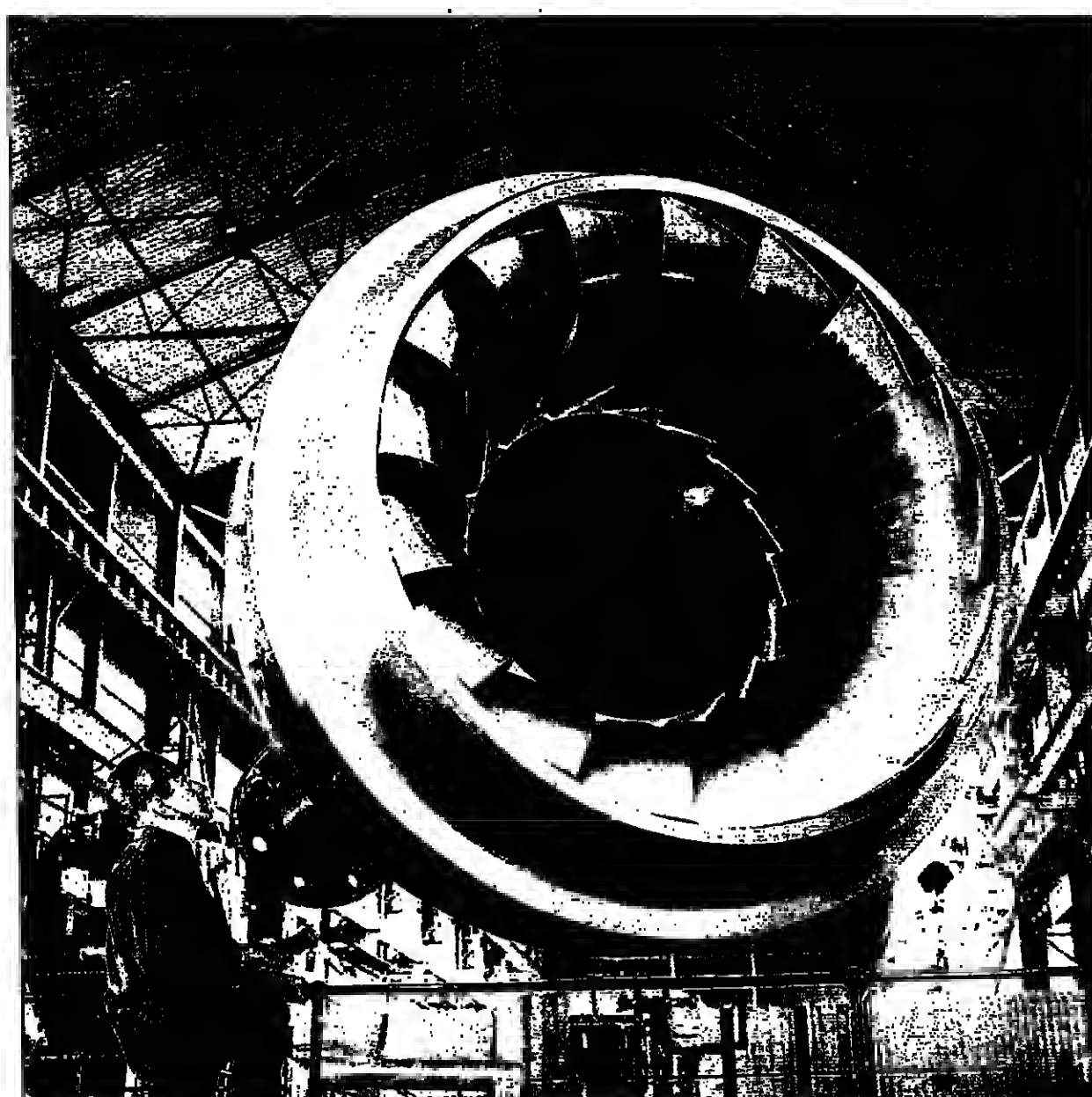
Where do we go from here? On the Goldman Sachs forecast for real GDP growth, which is slightly more subdued than that of the Treasury, price inflation would continue to drop on a trend basis over the next 18 months, and on unchanged policy it would probably be more than 1 percentage point below the government's 2.5 per cent inflation target in the first part of next year.

Thus, if policy is not changed, the Governor might have to write a letter to the Chancellor explaining why the inflation target has been

missed on the low side in about 12 months' time. This clearly means that macroeconomic policy can be eased further to avoid this potential outcome.

Although the 1999 Budget measures themselves, taken in isolation, introduced a moderate reduction in net taxation, it is misleading to conclude from this that the fiscal stance will ease in 1999-2000. In fact, because of earlier announcements of delayed increases in taxation, and because of surprising reductions in social security expenditure, the Treasury intends to implement a fiscal tightening of around 0.5 per cent of GDP in the coming fiscal year. Thus, while the fiscal stance will be less stringent than it has been in the last two years, it will not be supportive of growth in domestic demand in the coming year.

The implication of this argument, therefore, is that there is still scope for the Bank of England to ease monetary policy further in order to hit the inflation target. Goldman Sachs assumes that a further reduction in base rates of 100 basis points will be forthcoming in the next 12 months to keep inflation broadly within 1 percentage point of its central target. Such an easing in monetary policy is of course likely to improve the prospects of achieving a soft landing this year, with GDP growth looking likely to rebound quite strongly during the year 2000.



A group including Weir Engineering Services of Glasgow has won an £8m contract to refurbish two Scottish stations for Scottish Hydro-Electric, including refurbishing Francis turbines similar to that pictured above

Scout.com deal will make dialling easier

SCOUTCOM, the former Talking Pages, will today announce a deal with Energis, the telecoms group, which will enable customers to be put through to the desired business straight away without having to hang up and dial again.

The deal will also enable Scout to charge companies directly each time a customer accesses their phone number through its database. Analysts say the deal could be worth an extra £21m a year in revenue for Scout.

The level of the charge will depend on the value of business being generated: estate agents, for example, will be charged more per "hit" than, say, plumbers, to reflect the fact that each inquiry is potentially more valuable.

Robert Bonnier, Scout's chief executive, said that the attraction for business subscribers is that they will be able to see directly which users are coming to them through Scout. Ultimately they will see the amount they pay vary according to whether it is genuinely generating business.

Opec ministers meet to slash oil production

MINISTERS FROM the top oil producing countries began arriving in Vienna yesterday for a high-level Opec meeting tomorrow, which is expected to rubber-stamp a deal to slash oil output and end the two-year slump in the oil price.

The meeting follows the agreement thrashed out by five oil ministers in The Hague on March 12, under which the 10 Opec members will cut production by 1.7 million barrels per day from next month. That corresponds to around 2.7 per cent of global output of crude.

Gulf officials were quoted yesterday on arrival in Vienna saying that the deal would result in Brent crude, the benchmark oil price, rising from its current level of around \$13.45 a barrel to between \$17 and \$19 by the third quarter of this year.

Prices have already risen by around 40 per cent from their December lows in anticipation of further output cuts. The deal struck earlier this month at the instigation of Saudi Arabia was endorsed by three more states - Kuwait, the

3i chief looks for support from Electra shareholders

BRIAN LARCOMBE, the chief executive of 3i, the venture capital group, is visiting shareholders in rival Electra Investment Trust this week in an effort to drum up support for its £1.25bn final cash-and-shares bid for the trust.

The bid was formally launched on Friday, eliciting an immediate rebuff from Electra's chairman, Michael Stoddart, who called the offer "inadequate". Mr. Larcombe will be joined by 3i's finance director, Michael Queen.

Mr. Larcombe, who will also be visiting some of 3i's own

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

shareholders this week, believes that, with no white knight having so far emerged, the offer of 65 new 3i shares and £320.70 in cash for 100 Electra shares represents the best deal on the table.

Electra is pressing ahead with its own tender offer for 40 per cent of the trust's stock at 78p a share. Electra is also pledged to wind-up the trust within five years.

Electra maintains it is still open to counter-offers, al-

though as of yesterday no one had yet emerged, despite some energetic lobbying by Mr Stoddart in New York last week.

Mr Stoddart is believed to have seen a number of hedge fund investors, including George Soros, Goldman Sachs, the American investment bank, is also believed to have been in touch.

However, City sources say that financial buyers have had difficulty justifying paying the kind of price Mr Stoddart was seeking to bring back to the board. The attractiveness of the situation to hedge fund in-

vestors is also limited by the fact that most of them have their own leveraged funds.

Nevertheless, analysts say that by declaring its offer final, subject to a counter-bid by a third party, 3i may have laid itself open in the event of another party coming in and buying a stake in Electra but not making a full bid.

Electra's largest shareholders include the Prudential, Equitable Life, Standard Life and Legal & General. In addition US-based arbitrageurs are believed to have been active over the past weeks and may account for up to 16 per cent of the stock.

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£10bn in cash-backs - and that's just a start

CASH-BACKS are the stock market's newest passion and have given investors plenty to look forward to since the start of the year. The latest craze for returning capital to shareholders has gripped blue-chips and minnows alike and since January a dozen companies have pledged to hand back money to their followers through share buybacks or special dividends.

Last week, Tomkins, the struggling bus-to-guns conglomerate, jumped on the cash-back bandwagon with plans for a £400m buyback, and this week fellow engineer Glynwed could follow suit.

The two metal bidders join a list of capital returners that includes blue-chips such as Halifax, Centrica, the Woolwich and Gallaher, and undercard members such as Hazlewood Foods and Charter. In total, over £10bn has been earmarked for shareholders' pockets in the first two months of the year, including a massive £2.1bn coming the way of UK investors in the Anglo-Dutch consumer giant Unilever. Market watchers believe that there is a lot more to come and predict a record year for cash-backs, with £20bn set to be paid back - more than twice last year's total.

These bumper returns should underpin the market. The funds will go to increase the already large pool of money available to investors, boosting demand for stock. With equity supply restrained by takeovers and a dearth of new issues, the onems for share prices are looking good.

The reasons for the handout bonanza lie in a shift in the relationship between companies' managements and investors. Gone are the days when sleepy boards could let cash piles rot for ages on their balance sheets. The new creed of shareholder value - that is, making money for your investors - dictates that funds not used for acquisitions or in-

STOCK MARKET WEEK



FRANCESCO GUERRERA

vestment be speedily sent back to institutions and punters.

The favourable tax treatment of debt compared to equity is also a spur to gear up the balance sheet and return cash.

Handing back idle money is all well and good, but the key issue is how you do it. Of the three traditional instruments - share buybacks, special dividends and capital restructurings - buybacks are by far the most inequitable. For a start, not all shareholders receive capital on an equal basis.

Private investors tend to lose out to bigger institutions as shares are bought in the market where the pension funds are kings. Moreover, buybacks reduce the number of shares in issue, boosting the company's earnings per share. Given that most executives' bonuses are

linked to EPS growth, it is easy to see how buybacks allow the great and the good to marry shareholder value with their personal fortunes.

Special dividends are much fairer than buybacks as every investor is treated equally and there is little EPS distortion. Extra dividends plummeted to just over £1bn last year from £3.6bn in 1997, but they are enjoying a renaissance this year, thanks to the Woolwich £236m handout and Unilever's multi-billion pound payment.

By contrast, the appeal of capital restructurings, used by the Halifax for its £1.5bn pay-back, is fading fast as the demise of advance corporation tax will wipe out most of their tax advantages.

Of course, share repurchases are just more than "mucking about with the EPS", as one dealer put it. As Associated British Ports, which is buying back £50m, and Tomkins would argue, rolling buybacks are the ideal tonic for a depressed share price.

So far this year we have seen few repurchases, around \$50m in total, but we could be in for a busy spring. David McBain and Bob Semple at BT Alex Brown, believe that next month's abolition of ACT will "open the buyback floodgates". The drug giant SmithKline Beecham, for one, has already hinted at a £5bn repurchase after ACT goes and BG, the former British Gas, could also go for a £1.5bn cash return.

Glynwed could this week add to the cash sloshing around the market. The engineer, results on Wednesday, has some £300m of surplus capital after shedding some of its metals processing businesses to focus on making pipes. The sale of other non-core operations should provide further firepower. The results will be hit by the restructuring, which also included the £174m purchase of the German pipe-maker Friatec, and tough

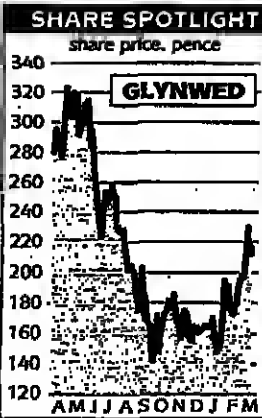
markets. Profits should be 15 per cent lower at £78m.

Glynwed is one of several engineers set to dominate the results schedule this week. The Scottish pump maker Weir will have a tough time. The company will have to justify its go-it-alone strategy after rejecting a \$60p-a-share bid from its US rival Flowserve. It will not be easy. Profits will probably rise marginally to around £68m from £60m, but the outlook for this year is bleak, as manufacturers, Weir's main customers, continue to suffer.

LucasVarity will complete the engineers' hat-trick. Profits, set to rise some 5 per cent to £49m, are largely academic as Lucas is being bought by the US group TRW for \$4.7bn. The interesting bits are the cost of Lucas's botched attempt to move its domicile and listing to the US, probably £13m, and the impact of the General Motors strike, say £11m.

Lucas will be joined by P&O as one of the few blue-chips to unveil figures. The ferry and cruise group could increase its dividend for the first time in nine years after sailing to a 10 per cent profit advance to around £400m. The cruise division will be the main driver of growth. Richard Hannah at BT Alex Brown believes that two new ships should have propelled operating profits 25 per cent higher to £220m. Expect some moaning over the abolition of duty-free shops on cross-channel ferries.

Next should lift some of the gloom surrounding the high street. Profits will be down, say 10 per cent to some £160m, owing to a poor first half. However, the upgrade of its merchandising and buying systems should have boosted trading in the latter part of the year. All eyes will be on current trading comments following a profit warning from Arcadia and bearish retail sales figures.



Companies reporting and economics diary for the week ahead

TODAY - Economic statistics: First GDP -Q4, balance of payments Q4, F&E: Monument Oil & Gas, Morgan Crucible, TT Group, Alcon Group, Core Group, Flying Flowers, Melstern, Nestor Healthcare, Pepitone Therapeutics, Rowdon Group, Schroder Ventures, Wesco. **TUESDAY** - Economic statistics: Retail prices January, F&E: Coda, Iceland Group, P&O, Allied London Properties, BLP Group, Capital Industries, Charles Baynes, Delta, EBC Group, Hunting, Independent News, Macfarlane Group, Newpoint Holdings, Severfield, Sherwood Group, Taylor & Francis. **WEDNESDAY** - Economic statistics: Global trade January, non-EU trade Feb. **THURSDAY** - Economic statistics: Retail prices January, F&E: Coda, Iceland Group, P&O, Allied London Properties, BLP Group, Capital Industries, Charles Baynes, Delta, EBC Group, Hunting, Independent News, Macfarlane Group, Newpoint Holdings, Severfield, Sherwood Group, Taylor & Francis. **FRIDAY** - Economic statistics: Retail prices January, F&E: Coda, Iceland Group, P&O, Allied London Properties, BLP Group, Capital Industries, Charles Baynes, Delta, EBC Group, Hunting, Independent News, Macfarlane Group, Newpoint Holdings, Severfield, Sherwood Group, Taylor & Francis.

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James Palumbo (left), owner of the Ministry of Sound nightclub, with Mark Rodol, his partner

Ministry of Sound wins action against director

JAMES PALUMBO, the owner of the fashionable South-east London nightclub The Ministry of Sound, has finally won a legal action against a former director of the club, Lynn Cosgrave, 18 months after the row began.

In November 1997 the Ministry, based in Elephant & Castle, issued a writ against Ms Cosgrave, claiming that while in its employment she "knowingly acted in a manner detrimental" to the club. The club alleged that she took "for herself profits and/or benefits arising from the use of company assets", and "devoted substantial amounts of her working time to the furtherance of her own interests".

The club also claimed that she then "destroyed and/or removed and/or deleted from the computer system the majority of the documents" relating to her employment. Mr Palumbo, son of Lord Palumbo, the former chairman of the Arts Council and well-known socialite, originally hired Ms Cosgrave to deal with the club's DJs, but then fell out with her.

Ms Cosgrave is currently vice-president of Sony Dance Division UK, as well as the manager of DJs Danny Rampling and John Digweed. Ms Cosgrave's legal costs following the judgment are likely to be substantial. Under the terms of the

WHO'S SUING WHOM

JOHN WILLCOCK

judgement she must also account to Mr Palumbo for any money she earned for herself using company assets.

ALIBERIAN-REGISTERED company is suing an Austrian investment bank in the High Courts in London over unpaid rent on a suite of offices it let to the bank in Kiev in the Ukraine.

River Trust Corporation, which is based in 80 Broad Street, Monrovia, Liberia, has launched legal action against CAIB Investmentbank Aktiengesellschaft of Vienna, Austria for \$2,119,32.

River Trust says that the rent is due from a range of five suites at Ivana Franko Street, Kiev for a term of 60 months from the 1 May 1997.

ONE OF Britain's leading aristocrats, Lord St Helens, is being sued by his landlord for possession of his country home in the village of Waltham St Lawrence in Berkshire, as well as for £21,000 in back rent.

Bartholomew Smith, the landlord, is also claiming rent from Lord St Helens at a rate of £36,000 per year from the date of service of the writ until Lord St Helens has vacated Halls Farmhouse, Halls Lane, in Waltham St Lawrence.

Lord St Helens formerly lived in Marchfield House, Binfield, Berkshire, but himself lives at another country house in the same county, Shottesbrooke Park in White Waltham, says Lord St Helens signed an agreement on 30 April 1997 for a term of 12 months to rent Halls Farmhouse at £3,000 per month.

Mr Smith says that Lord St Helens is still living at the farmhouse after the expiry of the term as a periodic tenant, on the same terms as the original agreement.

Now Mr Smith claims the rent is £21,000 in arrears, and he wants his money and repossession of the farmhouse.

A SOHO-BASED company is suing a commodity trading group over the management charge for its offices in New Burlington Street in the West End of London.

Tsedoko Ltd of Berwick Street, London, has launched an action against Burlington Commodities Ltd (formerly 'Agrichem UK Ltd') over the offices on the fourth and fifth floor of 4 New Burlington Street. Tsedoko is claiming nearly

£30,000 related to building work and another £80,000 related to service charges for the premises.

HSBC is preparing its legal defence against the action brought by its American banking rival, HFC, over the rebranding of all 1,700 Midland Bank branches with the name "HSBC".

HSBC, which bought Midland seven years ago, says it aims to complete the rebranding by the end of June.

HFC launched its legal action last week, claiming that customers would be confused by the similarity between the two names.

An HSBC spokesman commented on Friday: "We are going to contest the HFC writ vigorously."

The stakes are high. Following Midland's sale to HSBC in 1992 the new owner replaced the traditional Midland Griffin with the red HSBC hexagonal logo. But HSBC has left it until this year actually to rebrand the Midland branches with its own name. The process is going ahead quickly - nearly 400 Midland branches were renamed as HSBC branches just last Thursday. HFC is being represented by City solicitors Simmons & Simmons, while HSBC is using its usual firm, Clifford Chance, to prepare its defence.

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These days, no expense fiddle is spared

POOR FIONA Jones, MP and now suddenly former MP it's hard not to feel sympathy for her. To have lost (pending appeal) your seat in the Commons, your £45,000 MP's salary, your agent (who was fined £750 for his part in her downfall), the respect of your constituents, the doe-like loving gaze of your leader, and any shred of sympathy from your political peers is a tough break. To be sentenced to 100 hours of "community service" - the modern equivalent of being put in the stocks - must seem a galling irony to a woman who has represented her community for nearly two years.

If they'd flogged her naked through the streets of Newark and put her in a ducking stool on the edge of town, she couldn't feel much worse than she does now. That faraway look of purse-lipped disbelief she wore after the court's decision - as of someone who, while watching her courtesy car being ritually crushed by the Sergeant-at-Arms is told that her pet hamster has been found dead in the microwave oven - spoke paragraphs.

What did she do wrong? She made a false return on her campaign expenses. But it wasn't an expense fiddle as you or I might have once understood the concept. There was no freebie ride to Morocco or lingering candlelit supper à deux in the Aduller's Rest Hotel, courtesy of the taxpayer. We're not talking designer frocks charged to a bogus "clothing allowance". She didn't indulge a taste for nasal sherbert under the heading of "research materials". All she did was over-spend her own cash on party banners, stickers, hired cars, petrol and toner for the photostat machine; she was, as far as we can tell, simply guilty of being an over-zealous campaigner who finds she's exceeded the legal limit for expenses by 105 per cent, panics and tries to conceal the evidence.

But life is hard in Expenses Land. Fiddles and "creative accounting" used to be a joke ("In Reading she was *Charlottel*! The pick of all the bunch! But down on his expenses! She was petrol, oil and lunch") and employers sometimes indulged a little moral tramping among their executives. But now the culture of wrongdoing is so advanced, you can't even claim back less than half of the money you



JOHN WALSH
ON MONDAY

spent, without having a political opponent say you've falsified the record and must be challenged in court.

Ms Jones should have had an excuse prepared. Like the famous ICI executive who fiddled his expenses for years with the help of a contacts book of important clients in the pharmaceuticals industry, whose names he would carefully rotate through the months, while secretly lunching friends, family and mistresses.

One day, the finance director called him in. "Look George," he said, "it's about your lunch on June 12. It cost £76. Your ex-

penses form claims it was with Philip Harris of Smith Klein Beecham. Do you remember it?"

"Certainly," said George. "At the Ivy. Very tasty, as I recall."

"The trouble is," said the finance director, "Mr Harris sadly died nine months ago."

There was a silence. "Have you anything to say?" asked the finance director.

"Well," said George, "I thought he was a bit quiet."

SIMON BRETT once edited an *Anthology of Useful Verse*, as though to refute W H Auden's famous dictum that "poetry makes nothing happen".

Now there's a new arrival at the interface of modern verse and handy advice. It turned up at the Poetry Society on Friday night, in the shape of Caroline Carver, an unpublished Cornwall-dwelling writer who has just won the National Poetry Competition with an effusion called "Horse Under Water".

Ms Carver arrived late and breathless to pick up her prize, having been delayed by a crash on the M4. A small, sweet-faced woman in her late 50s, like a miniaturised A S Byatt, she sat before the microphone and told the assembled hard-core sophisticates how to handle sharks.

"If you try to stroke a shark on its forehead," she said, "you soon realise you have to do it downwards, from nose to tail. Do it the other way and your hand will be covered in blood, because the skin is abrasive, like little knives, all pointing the same way."

Ah yes, nodded the poets, we will certainly bear that in mind. "If you want to kill a shark," she continued, "you have to do it in the lummy, where the skin is smooth. You may have noticed that a shark's mouth is set quite far back towards its stomach, so if you're standing in shallow water, it has to roll on to its back to bite you. In other

words, if you want to kill a shark, you have to wait until it tries to kill you."

As the audience digested this vital intelligence, Ms Carver read her winning poem - about a horse that's used as shark-bait - in a lazy Caribbean dialect, the legacy of her time spent in Bermuda and Jamaica during the war as an evacuee mumsab.

She has just stopped working for a lawyer's practice in Plymouth. You can almost see the dorsal fins of publishers circling around her. I predict an exciting new millennium career for the formidable Ms Carver.

"IT WAS like playing with a Stradivarius," said the veteran Italian film director Franco Zeffirelli at the Café Royal on Thursday night, referring to the experience of working with three dames of the English stage and two feisty American divas in his new movie, *Tea With Mussolini*, about a colony of saurian expatriates in Florence who refuse to acknowledge the reality of war in the flower-strewn piazzas they've learnt to call home.

Well *molto grazie*, Frank, they must have thought. I've seen the film and yes, there's a richly familiar quality about the performances of Joan Plowright (fussy and maternal), Maggie Smith (itchy and xenophobic), Judi Dench (arty and tearful), Cher (hollow-cheeked and theatrical) and Lily Tomlin (playing a lesbian and looking weirdly like Dustin Hoffman these days). But will any of this starchy quintet relish being compared to a 250-year-old violin, angular, overpriced, excessively varnished and inconceivably wooden?

I'VE DISCOVERED a new strain of everyday metropolitan fury, a companion to road rage: it's called Radio Cut-in Rage. You're driving, let us say, along the South Circular listening to Melvyn Bragg discussing cosmology, or perhaps to a blast of Schumann on Radio Three, or the Capital Countdown or the News Quiz. You've just got to an interesting bit. You're negotiating a tricky right-hand turning at Tower Hill while concentrating on the words.

Your mind, hands and feet are meshed in happy Cartesian harmony. Alan Coren is saying: "I'm grateful to Mr Lionel Flew of Basingstoke for this cutting from the *Henley-on-Thames Gazette*."

And then suddenly - "DUH-Dah DUMM. It's GLR Traffic Update! And bad news from the Druitch intersection. A lorry has jack-knifed, shedding its... What the hell? You jab a finger at the search button on your radio. By the time you've got back to the station, you've missed it. The mood has gone. You shake your head. You go "Tsk".

Five minutes later, you shove a cassette into the tape slot. The Manic Street Preachers sing a delicious, if oddly up-tempo, song of loss and rejection, and you find yourself singing along. "But you / stole the sun from my har-ar-heart. You stole the... CRASH. And on the north section of the Hanger Lane



Fiona Jones may be in disgrace for fiddling her election expenses, but at least she has not been compared to a 250-year-old violin, unlike Joan Plowright, Maggie Smith and Judi Dench

flyover, it's simply chaos out there! For any drivers approaching the... You thump the steering wheel. "Bugger off!" you cry at the intrusive myrmidons of 94.9 kHz on the FM wave, "I don't care what's happening at the Hanger Lane flyover!" You try to calm down. You strive for a zen-like, uncaring stillness.

One time, the only local radio stations that could cut in on other stations were pirates operating from a flat in Brixton; the yelling tones of Shabba Ranks would suddenly invade, say, *Just a Minute*, bringing Peter Jones's charming dilation on "My Goldfish" to a brutal end. Now your sonic space is invaded from all directions with dismal jingles and otiose news about failed contraflow systems.

It's happening more and more. Yesterday, en route to Sunday lunch, Radio Kent cut in, just as *The World This Weekend* was bringing us news of the Breitling Orbiter when...

"Dah-DAH. And drivers should avoid the Maidstone area, where an oil tanker has collided with a milk float on the M2, causing a three-mile tailback." Radio Kent? Goodness. Soon Radio Gdansk will be running a stronger signal than the British national radio stations, and cutting in on *Desert Island Discs* with updated news about pig-iron quotas.

I know sound radio is getting more competitive; but this plundering of the airwaves can only result in driver irritation, gear lever abuse, dashboard violence and undisciplined shouting at your windscreen. The Department of Aural Pollution must look into it without delay.

hunch. Radio Kent cut in, just as *The World This Weekend* was bringing us news of the Breitling Orbiter when...

It's time for a Treaty

We call for the UK Government and citizens to strongly advocate a Treaty between the Australian Government and the Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

This Treaty should be concluded by 26th January, 2001 (Invasion Day in the Centenary of Australian Federation) as a symbolic date for negotiated settlement between the nation and the Indigenous Peoples.

We remind the United Kingdom Government and citizens that at no time have Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples been asked or given the freedom to accept or reject the Constitution of Australia or citizenship of the nation.

We remind the United Kingdom Government and citizens that they caused Aboriginal Peoples' and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' dispossession from 1788, and bestowed independence to the Australian colonies from 1901.

And now the United Kingdom Government and citizens fail to reconcile their atrocious deeds because they fail to advocate the restoration of Aboriginal Peoples' and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' human rights including legal ownership of the lands.

Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have not received the equal treatment and rights afforded to other Peoples of the Commonwealth who have now gained independence and self-determination through the process of de-colonisation.

The crimes and evils of racism have not been washed away by time and events.

This is a contemporary predicament, where injustice prevails, where the plunder and profit is sacred, where the dispossessed Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples remain oppressed in their own country.

Since 1991 the Australian Government has publicised its desire for Reconciliation between Government and the Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples by 2001.

The Australian Government has not made the necessary commitment to negotiate in good faith with Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

The Australian Constitution Act was passed by the United Kingdom Government in 1900 with manifest intent to discriminate against Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and deny their recognition as Australian citizens.

The Constitution of Australia still stands as both a real and symbolic instrument of racial oppression, dispossession and social segregation of Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

The Australian nation is considering Constitutional change as a benchmark of 100 years of independent government, but the nation is pre-occupied with less fundamental issues in the Constitution than the nation's institutionalised racism and racial oppression.

We call for a Treaty signed between the Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and the Government of Australia by 2001.

We petition the United Kingdom Government and the Peoples of the United Kingdom to guarantee human rights by strongly advocating this Treaty.

It's time for the United Kingdom to act with responsibility.

It's time for a Treaty.

United Kingdom Supporters...

Trade Union Congress (TUC) Race Relations Committee, UNISON National Black Members Committee, National Assembly Against Racism, RMT Black and Ethnic Minority Committee, Roland Biosah Chair 1999 Black Workers' Conference, Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation, Professor Germaine Greer, Dr Greg and Sally Williams, Dr John Wentworth, European Network for Indigenous Australian Rights, Keith Vaz MP, Jeremy Corbyn MP, John Pilger, Jane Hubert, Ros Poignant, Jeff and Fiona Waters, Bob Perkins, Lee Jasper.

For further information contact:- Sanjiv Vadi, UNISON, 20 Grand Depot Rd, London SE18 6SF. Telephone: 0181 854 2344 or 0171 460 7280.

THE MONDAY CROSSWORD

by Portia

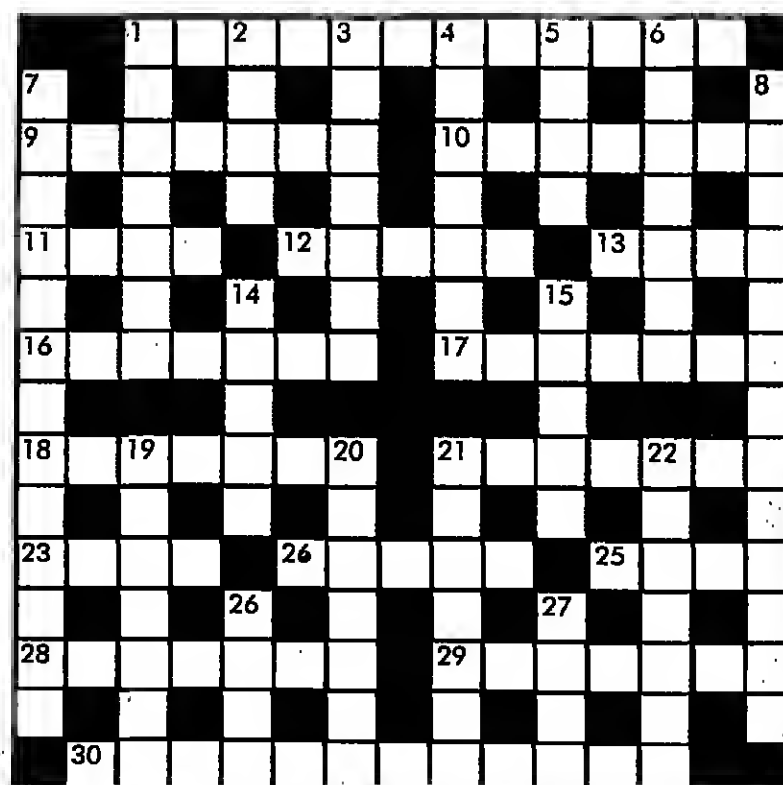
No.3876 Monday 22 March

ACROSS

- Blow that makes a difference? (4,2,6)
- Full circle's complete without team leader (7)
- Spear fish in English river (7)
- Every tutor's taking time off (4)
- Irish writer's exciting, we hear (5)
- Notes honour given composer (4)
- Can set about meeting price of fertiliser (7)
- Disorderly without the police up front (7)
- Fancy work? (7)
- Junior accountant making for holiday island (7)
- Girl in Peru they visited (4)
- Shame to restrict sweetheart's devotion (5)
- Initially serve sauce by mistake (4)
- Touching spur's point to begin with (7)
- Slide locks and bolt together (7)
- Member of trust in US city (12)

DOWN

- Deal with hack producing impressive design (7)
- Way of expressing negative - a French word (4)
- Bygone Model T I renovated (3-4)
- Keep quiet about commercial trainee (7)
- Surrounded by shadowy area going up (4)
- Sort out directions given for explosive (7)
- Henry can order Noel to reveal secret (4,3,6)
- In a difficult position on board? (2,3,5,3)
- Public schoolboy, popular Dickensian character (5)
- Rock music? (5)
- Record deposit (3,4)
- Wounding glance? (4,3)
- Went with chap in pursuit of partnership (7)
- Decline right to slip away (7)
- Discharge fuel (4)
- Look shabby, by the sound of it (4)



FULL SPORT COVERAGE IN A NEW 12-PAGE SECTION

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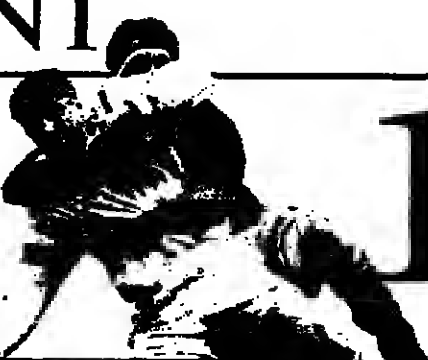
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3 Toffees come unstuck as Manchester United stay glued to top



6 England's Graham Thorpe pads up for the World Cup

9 Woodward's Twickenham steamroller crushes the life out of France



12 Rusedski takes a stroll in the Florida sunshine



SPORT

22 March 1999

Worthington Cup final: Dane claims trophy for Tottenham with injury-time goal after Edinburgh is dismissed

Nielsen header caps drama

By GLENN MOORE
at Wembley

Leicester City 0
Tottenham Hotspur 1

BEFORE YESTERDAY'S Worthington Cup final a group of Leicester supporters were drawing an angry reaction from Tottenham fans with the taunt: "You're just a bunch of booners". They may not like the comparison, but there was definitely a touch of the Arsenal about Tottenham's victory at Wembley.

It was not the sight of George Graham on the bench, or the score, "One-nil to the Tott-en-ham", they also had a man sent off and showed a resilience that used only to be associated with the red-and-white half of north London. There was even an echo of Spurs' last visit to Wembley, for the 1993 FA Cup semi-final, when Arsenal had Lee Dixon sent off but still beat them 1-0. Graham, of course, was then managing Arsenal. Following six trophies with them, he has now won seven pots in 12 years.

Tottenham's goal, scored by Allan Nielsen in the third minute of injury-time, was just reward for the more contentious of two essentially negative teams. But if the final was disappointing as a match it did not lack drama or human interest. Nielsen, for example, has been marginalised



Steffen Iversen directs his header at the Leicester goal from Darren Anderton's free-kick in Tottenham's best moment of the first half at Wembley yesterday

David Ashdown

Frank Sinclair misses final after breach of discipline Page 3

at White Hart Lane by the arrival of Tim Sherwood (cup-tied for this game) and has been talking of leaving. He may still do so, but at least he would go with a place in the Tottenham pantheon assured.

Then there was Justin Edinburgh, the only survivor of Spurs' last trophy success, the FA Cup in 1991. Included because Mauricio Tarico is cup-tied, he had talked of wanting to remember the experience more than he had been able to as a 21-year-old. That he certainly did, but he would probably prefer to forget it as he was sent off for striking Robbie Savage after 68 minutes. He did not hit Savage hard, certainly not as hard as the Welshman's reaction suggested, but he raised his arm, made contact and could have no argument.

It proved to be the turning point, though not in the way expected.

Leicester, having already reduced David Ginola to a peripheral figure by the attentions of Robert Ulinthorne, ought to have gone on and won the match. The incident came as they were gaining the ascendancy but, with Emile Heskey unfit and eventually withdrawn, they had no potency. They appeared to sit back and wait for extra time in the likelihood that Spurs would tire.

Tottenham, however, also had the extra half-hour on their minds as they took the game to Leicester, eager to win it while their limbs allowed them. They were also fired up by Edinburgh's dismissal.

Iversen, who had hit the side netting in the 80th minute, took a pass from Les Ferdinand on the right and ran at Steve Walsh, 13 years his senior. The Norwegian reached the edge of the six-yard box then shot across goal, Kasey Keller got a hand to the ball, it popped up and Nielsen, despite having three Leicester defenders around him, was able to dive forward to head it into the net.

The irony was that Savage had left the pitch just seconds earlier, substituted by Martin O'Neill for his own good - a second booking, and

his own dismissal, had seemed increasingly likely.

The dramatic conclusion was in stark contrast to the match, which had been largely bogged down in midfield, especially in the first half. Tottenham looked to give the ball to Ginola at every opportunity but, once he had it, did not offer him many options. Instead they waited in vain for him to dribble his way through the blue shirts that quickly surrounded him.

As a consequence Tottenham managed only one clear attempt at goal in the opening half, an Iversen

header six minutes before the break from a Darren Anderton free-kick. There was one other opportunity, created by a delightful back-heal from Ginola, but Anderton was closed down before he could shoot.

Leicester, who included five members of the team who won this competition in 1997, produced even less, failing to manage even a single shot. A Savage pass created the best chance of the half but Heskey, having got away from Sol Campbell, delayed and allowed Ramon Vega to make an excellent tackle.

That, apart from a booking for

Matt Elliott for a late tackle on Vega, was it for the first half. The second began more brightly. Leicester at last pushing forward with Ulinthorne leaving Ginola's side to drive in a 25-yard shot that Ian Walker initially spilled. As Tony Cottee charged in for the loose ball, the goalkeeper recovered to smother the ball bravely.

Eight minutes later Edinburgh and Savage contested a loose ball on the half-way line. Savage's clattering challenge was late but that could not excuse Edinburgh's reaction. He became the third player

to be sent off in a senior Wembley final, after Kevin Moran in the 1965 FA Cup, and Andrei Kanchelskis in this competition a decade later.

Leicester, instead of capitalising, stood off, their reluctance to commit men forward underlined when Cottee went past Walker only for his cross to roll through an empty goal area. It was to be their last chance. Cottee, still searching for that first winner's medal in England, was in tears at the end.

While he was being consoled by team-mates, victory was being celebrated with glee by the Lilywhite



hordes. There was still no sound, however, of a chorus of "George Graham's blue-and-white army". Maybe that will come if he leads them to the FA Cup as well.

Goalkeepers (50) D-1: Leicester City (3-5-2): Keller; Keggart, Elliott, Walsh, Ulinthorne; Savage (Lignorski, 90); Livers, Lorrain, Garry, Corrie, Heskey (Marshall, 74). Substitutes sent on: Koomari, Stuart Campbell, Arpinard (64).

Tottenham Hotspur (4-4-2): Walker; Carr, Vega, Sol Campbell, Edinburgh, Anderton, Friend, Nielsen, Ginola (Sinton, 90); Iversen, Ferdinand, Subotic (Barnes not named); Young, Strain, Armstrong, Dominguez, Burdson (84).

Referee: 1. Heston (Newton Aycliffe), Bookings: Tottenham: Vega, Leicester: City Elliott, Savage. Sending off: Tottenham: Edinburgh. Man of the match: Ulinthorne. Attendance: 77,892.

Football: 2-5 ■ The week ahead: 6 ■ Brian Viner: 7 ■ Rugby Union: 9 ■ Racing: 10 ■ Cricket: 11 ■ Tennis: 12



Re-incarnation

ABBOT ALE WORSHIPPED SINCE 1799

Not guilty as charged but abuse continues

I WENT to the Middlesbrough v Southampton match last Sunday. Nothing remarkable about that, you might think. However, there is. I had not set foot on Teesside since Middlesbrough were relegated from the Premiership two years ago, their fate sealed by the decision of the Premier League to dock them three points for calling off a match at Blackburn Rovers without permission.

It had become clear to me - from the many abusive letters I received and the reception accorded me at two cup finals in 1997 - that most, if not all, Middlesbrough supporters held me solely responsible for their visit to the Nationwide. It made no difference that the ruling on

the three points had nothing whatsoever to do with me. It was entirely a Premier League matter for Rick Parry and his colleagues. But it was I who took the rap. Obviously I was the convenient establishment fall-guy.

The abuse did not worry me too much. I simply resolved to steer clear of Teesside for a while. A considerable while! Then, last Sunday morning, after our Durham Buffaloes team had defied the passing of time with another sparkling performance, my friend Ian happened to offer me a spare ticket for the game later that day. His girlfriend was unable to go, having given birth to their daughter three weeks earlier.

It could have been worse. I learned, because the baby had been due the very day Juninho had, according to rumour, been scheduled to make his return debut. Neither Juninho nor the baby arrived on schedule.

"Are you sure you want to take me?" I asked. "Haven't you forgotten something?" "What's that?" he said. "Your fans don't like me," I reminded him. "I was even barred from a wedding in Middlesbrough last year." "Oh there'll be no problem," he assured me, "we're back in the Premier League now."

So it was that I found myself queuing with Ian outside his chosen entrance at half past three. He is superstitious and firmly believes Boro's performance is inextricably linked to the turnstile he uses. He must have used every door in the ground this season as home performances have fluctuated.



GRAHAM KELLY

three. He is superstitious and firmly believes Boro's performance is inextricably linked to the turnstile he uses. He must have used every door in the ground this season as home performances have fluctuated.

Climbing the steps inside the ground we encountered our first problem. "What's he doing here?" shouted a burly home fan. "He shouldn't be allowed in the ground." To my amusement, Ian apologised to me and attempted to explain the true situation to the protester as I walked on. I can only assume Ian's reasoned argument fell on deaf ears, for the last words I heard (whose they were I am not sure) were "F--- off, you w*****".

I received one or two strange looks on the course, but no more abuse came my way. I hopped into a former FA colleague. He is another Middlesbrough supporter. He never revealed whether

he had defended me to his friends or joined in the abuse two years ago.

The young defender Robbie Stockdale predicted in the match programme that Middlesbrough's next few games would not be brilliant to watch. He was certainly proved right that day. After the stadium had filled rapidly between ten to four and kick off, there was little hair on display. Gazza was missing. Possibly he had suffered a mishap in the Comic Relief mud match.

My neutral gaze alighted on Matthew Le Tissier. Sadly, he was out of sorts. Shortly after being booked for a foul, he was fortunate that referee Mike Reed missed him punching clear a free-kick when standing in a defensive wall on the penalty spot. The veteran, Mark Hughes, tried to play some football, but one volleyed shot went out of play near the half-way line.

Flo fires Chelsea's title dream

A WEEK after Gianluca Vialli conceded the title following a wobble against West Ham, Chelsea made nonsense of their player-manager's pessimism yesterday. Even a three-goal victory at Villa Park which saw them clamber back over Leeds into the Champions' League qualifying zone, did scant justice to their superiority over an Aston Villa side who have now taken one point from eight matches.

Vialli's side, who were indebted to a splendid two-goal flourish from Tore Andre Flo, thus moved to within three points of Manchester United's closest pursuers, Arsenal. They have two games in hand on the leaders and, crucially, expect to welcome back Gustavo Poyet in their next match, at Charlton. The toughest of their remaining fixtures is at home to Leeds. Otherwise, their run-in is largely comprised of mid-table teams or clubs from the lower reaches.

If anyone at Stamford Bridge really had given up on the championship, they forgot to let Flo in on the theory. Breaking his team's sequence of three domestic fixtures without a goal, he fired Chelsea in front moments before the hour. That they did not make sure of the points until the last four minutes, when Bjarne Goldback and Flo scored, was almost entirely due to the agility of Mark Bosnich, the one Villa player seemingly unaffected by a chronic lack of confidence.

Villa will be glad to see the back of Flo for another season. The gangling Norwegian was on the scoresheet when Chelsea punctured their early optimism with a 3-1 win in the Worthington Cup in October, and then scored the last-gasp goal which consigned them to their first Premiership away defeat in December. But, in truth, Villa will be glad to see the back of the season, period. Having led the pack going into the new year, John Gregory's team are now in danger of missing out on a Uefa Cup place.

Worryingly for the Villa manager, the most conspicuous demonstration of passion yesterday came from their physio. Jim Walker, who was on the pitch to treat Stan Collymore following a challenge which earned Marcel Desailly a yellow card, exchanged heated words with Dennis Wise after the Chelsea captain appeared to cast aspersions on the prostrate striker.

The incident could prove costly for Chelsea. Wise also ended up being cautioned, and now both he and Desailly are suspended for next month's visit to Wimbledon. None of which was of any consolation to Villa, who gave the ball away with alarming regularity.

The only surprise was that Chelsea took so long to translate their ascendancy into goals. They frequently had Bosnich's protectors in disarray and the Australian had to be at his best to keep Flo and Gianfranco Zola at bay before the break. The home side made only one chance during the same period, Dion Dublin's header from Alan Thompson's cross forcing Ed de Goey into a diving catch.

The breakthrough arrived after a deftly chipped pass by Albert Ferrer released Flo in the inside-right channel. Switching the ball on to his left foot, and throwing off Gareth Southgate in the process, he curled a low shot beyond Bosnich from the angle of the six-yard box.

Desailly almost gifted Villa an equaliser with uncharacteristically slack control in the 76th minute, only for Julian Joachim's job over De Goey to pass wide. The miss stung Chelsea into renewed efforts which produced the additional goals their performance merited.

Goldback, arguably the snip of the season at £300,000 from FC Copenhagen, collected his fourth goal for Chelsea with a tumbling finish after being played in by Flo. The provider became predator once more following a marvellous pass by Jody Morris. Flo rounding Bosnich before slotting in his 11th goal of the campaign.

Gregory admitted later that the longer Villa's decline went on, the harder it became to end it. "The transformation has been amazing," he sighed. Goals: Flo (59) 0-1; Goldback (66) 0-2; Flo (69) 0-3; Aston Villa (3-5-2): Bosnich; Scimeca, Southgate, Barry, Watson, Stone, Hendrie (45), 74-3; Thompson, White, Dublin (after 74); Collymore (60), 74. Substitutes not used: Draper, Oakes (64).

Chelsea (4-4-2): De Gea; Le Saux, Desailly, Le Tissier, Poyet; Parry (Lambourne, 76); Morris, Wise, Goldback; Zola, Flo (Richards, 80). Substitutes not used: Doherty, Newton, Hitchcock (64). Referee: G Barber (Surrey). Bookings: Villa - Thompson, Chelsea - Ferrer, Desailly, Wise. Man of the match: Flo. Attendance: 39,217.

Mark Bosnich, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, punches clear from the head of Chelsea's Gianfranco Zola at Villa Park yesterday. Empics

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Fear of failure haunts Big Ron

BY JON CULLEY
Nottingham Forest 1
Middlesbrough 2

CONTRARY to football folklore as some would see it, not every one loves Big Ron. His arrival in Nottingham, for instance, sparked enormous scepticism.

Forest had to track him down to a beach in the Caribbean to offer him the manager's job and even then he refused to cut short his holiday. Now, to some eyes at least, he swans around in his sharp suits with a fat salary cheque guaranteed, win or lose, wise-cracking his way along the road to the First Division. A nice little earner, those with raised eyebrows said, if there ever was one.

Until Saturday, that is. After Middlesbrough had pilfered the points at the City Ground, casting Forest further adrift in choppy relegation waters, the game's last great character-manager set his features in a scowl. It was not the look of a man who did not give a damn.

He had kept the press waiting for almost an hour and now he had made his entrance he stared mostly straight ahead. There was no smile, let alone any jokes. He was very cross, he said, and those assembled did not disagree. He was not, he said, and he did not like it.

Atkinson did not like it when Aston Villa sacked him. He liked it even less when Sheffield Wednesday replaced him with Danny Wilson. Failure hurts his pride and Forest's miserable response to his arrival is getting to him. He berated his players. They were weak-willed, he said, had failed to reveal even a modicum of mental strength and had handed Middlesbrough victory. "I'm furious," he said, "because of the way we played in the last 20 minutes. The game was there to be won."

It was such a contrast to the previous Saturday, when Forest had won at Wimbledon. Victories for Southampton and Blackburn on Saturday leave Forest isolated at the bottom.

If Forest now know where they will be next season, Atkinson does not. Rumour has it that Forest have offered him £500,000-a-year to mastermind promotion from the First Division. Rumour has it also that they have sounded out Brian Little, said to be disenchanted at Stoke, and Tottenham's director of football, David Pleat. Whatever the truth is, Atkinson is unlikely to quit.

On Saturday, Forest might have hoped history would protect them. After all, Middlesbrough had not beaten them in 24 league meetings spanning 36 years. But when fate has decided to trample on your head such things count for little.

Forest made two serious defensive errors and paid for both. Hamilton Ricard catching Jesper Mattson out of position to give Bryan Robson's side the lead and Brian Deane taking his chance when Steve Chettle's header left Christian Edwards in trouble. Dougie Freedman struck his third goal in as many games but nothing else worked for Forest.

Goals: Ricard (30) 0-1; Freedman (37) 1-1; Deane (87) 1-2. Nottingham Forest (3-4-1-2): Croxall; Edwards, Mattson (Poyet, 57), Chettle; Louis-Jean, Palmer; Bar-Williams (Bosnich, 74). Rogers, Merson, Gosens, Deane (Ricard, 45), 74. Substitutes not used: Beasant (64), Gough. Middlesbrough (2-5-2): Schwarzer; Fenn, Vickers, Cooper; Stockdale, Middleton, Swales, Merson, Gosens, Deane (Ricard, 55), 59. Amis (80), 87. Substitutes not used: Gough, Hughes, Harper (84). Referee: P O'Neil (Portsmouth). Bookings: Forest - P O'Neil, Middlesbrough - Merson, Vickers. Man of the match: Ricard. Attendance: 21,458.

Game Results 20/3/99.
This Saturday there were 7 score draws:

Huddersfield v Birmingham
Walsall v Bristol R
Wrexham v Burnley
Rotherham v Peterboro

Motherwell v Aberdeen
Ayr v St. Mirren
Clyde v Arbroath

*Matchmaker Adjudicated Results for postponed matches
Home wins (H): NONE
Away wins (A): NONE
No score draws (D): NONE
Score draws (S): NONE

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Rovers trio tear Dons apart

IT WAS not just the Blackburn players who were back in form at Ewood Park on Saturday. True to managerial type, Brian Kidd came up with the right result when asked to assess the eight matches that will determine the Premiership fate of his rollercoasting Rovers.

"We're just looking at the next one," he said. "We're taking each game as it comes."

The trouble for the Blackburn manager is that the next one, against Middlesbrough at Ewood, does not come until Saturday week - and there is only one more after that, against Arsenal at Highbury three days later, before 17 April.

Having got his side back on the rails and shifting so impressively, the last thing Kidd needed was a four-week stretch with just two fixtures to contest. It was difficult enough for Rovers to maintain momentum for just 90 minutes on Saturday.

That was hardly surprising, though, considering the tempo of the all-out assault which flattened Wimbledon in the first half. Kidd was pleased his players were disappointed with their second-half efforts but Ashley Ward added: "We were disappointed to be 3-0 up at half-time."

It could easily have been 3-0 before Ward opened the scoring in the seventh minute, such was the pace, the purpose and the precision of Blackburn's relentless offensive play.

Given Blackburn's position, Kidd should be commended for casting caution aside and sending his team to battle with three front-line attackers. Such an adventurous approach was dismissed as over-ambitious when Kevin Keegan tried it at Newcastle, but it did not work for the England caretaker because Alan Shearer, Les Ferdinand and Faustino Asprilla either got in each other's way or failed to contribute collectively.

It worked for Blackburn because Ward, Chris Sutton and Matt Jansen not only toiled in tandem but performed their individual tasks with devastating effect. Admittedly, Wimbledon were not... well, not like Wimbledon. But that was because they were cut to shreds from the start by the three roving musketeers.

It was a wonder that it took as long as seven minutes for Rovers to score. Sutton and Jansen combining on the edge of the area to leave Ward with a side-footed finish. The second goal was more messy, Jansen bundling the ball over the line with the unwitting assistance of Ben Thatcher and Alan Kimble, but the chance came courtesy of Dario Marcolin's throughball and Sutton's lob.

The dynamic trio were involved in the third goal too. Sutton, showing international form following his England recall, released Ward, whose shot was blocked by Sullivan, and Jansen pounced on the rebound.

It was over as a contest by the 26th minute, though Jason Euell's effort, midway through Blackburn's second-half coast, was at least one crumb to console the 120 Wimbledon fans on their long journey home.

Goals: Ward (16) 1-0; Jansen (18) 2-0; Jansen (20) 3-0; Euell (63) 3-1. Blackburn Rovers (4-3-3): Ryan; McKean, Hetheridge, Taylor, Davidson, Johnson (Taylor, 80); Marcolin, Wilson (Gilliepie, 80); Jansen (Duff, 57). Ward, Sutton, Substitutes not used: Davies, Fettes (64).

Middlesbrough (4-4-2): Schwarzer; Carrington, Blackwell, Thatcher; Smith; Arfield (C. Hughes, 1-1); Euell, Barrie, M. Hughes; Harrison (Doherty, 1-1); Davis, Substitutes not used: Roberts, Kennedy, Head (64). Referee: G Willard (Haringey). Bookings: Blackburn - Davidson, Wimbledon - Thatcher. Man of the match: Sutton. Attendance: 21,754.

Hammers close in on European spot

SUBTLE CHANGES are being made at Upton Park. A new club crest was unveiled on Saturday, the little caps on the castle's towers have disappeared without appearing to diminish the Boleyn's stout defences, while the crossed hammers have a hint more menace about them.

Which was a fair assessment of affairs on the pitch as West Ham climbed to fifth place in the Premiership by overcoming a stilted Newcastle. The promise of a place in Europe next season shifts tantalisingly closer to east London.

Paolo di Canio and Paul Kitson's recently formed attacking partnership provided the goals and the points, but the Hammers' fourth victory in six matches was indebted to a defence that has been fortified by the addition of Scott Minto and return from injury of Neil Ruddock.

That was abundantly clear to West Ham United 2
Newcastle United 0

Rund Gullit, who cut a weary if gracious figure following Newcastle's second successive League defeat. "We played some good stuff, but we did not have the firepower to make it difficult for them," the manager said. "Also because they had a good shape in the back four, and that was the difference."

Naturally, Gullit's mood was in stark contrast to that of an ebullient Harry Redknapp. The West Ham manager was positively aglow afterwards, heaping praise on his defenders and jesting amiably about Di Canio's skills, saying: "If he works on his ball control, he'll be a decent player!"

No, not seriously, Harry... "We've gone above Aston Villa now and that's a great achievement. We couldn't live with Newcastle a few years ago but we can now. People will say they've gone backwards, but we've improved."

That they have is without doubt, and the recent additions of Marc-Vivien Foé and Minto demonstrates that Redknapp has an eye for a player. A gambler by nature, too, his decision to pay Sheffield Wednesday £1.7m for Di Canio after his four months in the footballing wilderness had appeared to be his greatest punt yet.

Di Canio was every bit the daring rapier, breaking wide on both wings, and a constant torment to Newcastle. His opening goal was inevitable when he arrived after 17 minutes. A long ball forward caused Newcastle's makeshift defence to falter, but Di Canio appeared offside when the ball fell squarely into his path. The assistant referee waved, but, since the ball had

last touched Nikos Dabizas's heel, the Italian played on and angled his shot beyond Shay Given. The goalkeeper appeared to have acknowledged the flag rather than the old maxim of playing to the whistle. The referee, Paul Durkin, overruled his assistant and the goal stood. "A terrible goal, but a good decision," conceded Gullit.

In the second half, Di Canio teased Kitson with a cross from the right, but the former Newcastle striker headed wastefully against the bar, the ball rolling along the goal line before Laurent Charvet hacked it clear. On 82 minutes Kitson was not to be thwarted when he ran on to Frank Lampard's raking pass downfield, pinruetted free of two defenders, and drove his shot inside the far post.

The attacking trio of the West Ham forwards drew a stark comparison to another forlorn 90 minutes from Alan

Shearer. Aside from a 20-yard free-kick early in the match that was saved by the excellent Shaka Hislop, Shearer was an isolated and frustrated figure, easily contained by his England team-mate Rio Ferdinand.

Gullit would not be drawn on the striker's performance - "I don't talk about individuals" - and a terse claim that his formation comprised three attackers appeared disingenuous.

His first season at Newcastle now hinges on the FA Cup semi-final, while West Ham could be on the cusp of engaging European opposition for the first time in 18 years.

Goals: Di Canio (17) 1-0; Kitson (82) 2-0. West Ham United (4-4-2): Hislop; Pearce, Ferdinand, Ruddock, Hargreaves, Lampard; Foé, Louis, Sinclair; Di Canio, Kitson. Substitutes not used: Potts, Ketter, Moncur, Bericovic, Forrest (84). Newcastle United (4-4-2): Given, Griffin, Charvet, Dabizas, Dorr, Mark (Kewell, 59), Georgakos (Len, 60), Speed, Solomons, Shearer (59). Substitutes not used: Gordon, Hughes, Harper (84). Referee: P O'Neil (Portsmouth). Bookings: West Ham: P O'Neil, Newcastle: Ruddock. Man of the match: Ruddock. Attendance: 25,997.

OUTSIDE
EDGEFooty
hype
rivals
Oscars

ARE YOU like me? Squared-eyed from all this footy on the box? A channel hopper virtuoso? Great life, isn't it? Why, no less an aficionado than Alan Shearer reckons there'll never be a better time to be a couch potato.

Take the other night. A choice of 78 live games plus the classic footy film *Escape to Victory*. Not to mention a chilling Alan Hansen exposé about Totti West's barber. Some night for us footy vegetarians, eh?

Or was it? You see, being a bit of a film buff, I chose *Escape to Victory*. The special Widescreen Edition it was. You know, the one that manages to squeeze in the whole of Mike Summerbee's nose. Anyway, as Mike and his fellow pros were busy giving a good, honest account of themselves, it struck me how sharply their unassuming demeanour contrasted with the attitudes and glamorous lifestyles of today's prima donnas. How, within the space of a few years, the game has been transformed beyond recognition.

I mean, can you believe it was only as recently as the mid-1980s that a player such as Everton's Mick Pejo was in the running for the prize of Britain's Most Handsome Footballer. Okay, so it's true the chairman of the judging panel was the legendary Blues icon, Blind Lemon Sole. And they reckon he would have awarded first prize to a pot-bellied pig, provided it was wearing an Everton shirt.

Even so, how starkly it demonstrates the way perceptions have changed. I mean, these days you'd be more likely to find our Mick turning his way across Westmorland than striding the beauty circuit. It's not just the changes, though. What is also rife these days is the hype.

Take the current Luvvies' darling, Vinnie Jones. Now, I've nothing against the guy, but I ask you. Does he really think he's going to blow Al Pacino out of Hollywood? Are we truly looking to Vinnie to clean up at next year's Oscars? I mean, come on. If you ask me, I doubt very much whether even Bernard Fresslaw is looking over his shoulder, let alone Al Pacino. And poor old Bernard's been dead for six years.

Let's face it, if simply wearing a leather overcoat and snarling a few times at old ladies qualified you as a movie star, then our milkman would have made it to Hollywood years ago. And he was a pretty tidy footballer, too.

No, the way I see it, Vinnie's best ever chance of landing a meaty role was that time he grabbed hold of Gazza by the hollocks. And even then he let the opportunity slip through his fingers.

And what about golden boy David Beckham? Pretentious or what? Naming your baby after a bridge. Where do these people come from? So they made love dangling over the Hudson River. Big deal.

Let's be honest, it's all gone a bit far, hasn't it? The next thing you know every footy fan will be talking like Garth Crooks and pretending they're experts on current affairs. And do you know what? I'm not sure I want to be around when we get to that stage.

ALAN EDGE

Beckham in doubt for Poland

DAVID BECKHAM'S participation in England's European Championship qualifier against Poland on Saturday is in doubt after he was substituted with a calf injury during Manchester United's 3-1 win over Everton yesterday.

The England coach, Kevin Keegan, will also find out today whether David Batty will be fit to link up with the rest of the squad. The tenacious midfielder has only just returned to the Leeds line-up after three months out with a broken rib.

England will not find many familiar faces in the Polish team. Only two members of the side that lost 2-1 to England in

BY ALAN NIXON

a World Cup qualifier in October 1996 remain in the squad named yesterday.

There is no place in the squad for striker Marek Citko, who scored against England, nor for Artur Wichniarek, the leading scorer in the Polish First Division this season.

Ryan Giggs is a serious doubt for Wales's European Championship qualifier against Switzerland after succumbing to a hamstring injury. The winger missed Manchester United's game yesterday and, although he will report to the Welsh squad, he is unlikely to play.

"It's for them to decide his fitness," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said, "but I think he'll be doubtful."

The Republic of Ireland's crucial European Championship qualifier in Macedonia, scheduled for Skopje on Saturday, remains in doubt because of the political situation in the Balkans.

With 10,000 Nato troops assembling in Skopje and the threat of Nato bombardment in neighbouring Kosovo, the Football Association of Ireland has been in constant communication with Europe's governing body, Uefa, and the Republic's Department of Foreign Affairs.

"The security of all our players, officials and supporters is of paramount importance," the FAI Chief Executive, Bernard O'Byrne, said. "It is a matter of deep concern that our flight path on Thursday is through Yugoslavian airspace."

"Uefa have already told us that the situation regarding our hotel is not conducive for players preparing for such a vital European Championship match." The Republic coach, Mick McCarthy, will continue his preparations as usual, with his squad assembling in Dublin tonight.

"It's a tragedy that people are being killed in that part of

the world at the moment," McCarthy said. "But I have to prepare my team for a football match until I hear of any postponement from the people who make those decisions."

Mark Viduka has accused people in "high places" at Celtic of "making problems" with the payment of his transfer fee to Croatia Zagreb.

Celtic are unwilling to pay the £3m fee in full because of apparent concerns that Zagreb will not distribute the money properly. World football's governing body, Fifa, is to decide on the matter. The Scottish champions have paid £900,000 so far.

"I have no problems with

Zagreb, but some people in high places at Celtic are making problems," Viduka said. "Maybe it's in their own interests, maybe they don't want to pay money for me. People here are trying to put words in my mouth."

Sunderland have signed Carsten Fredgaard, but Lyngby's Danish Under-21 international will not arrive until the end of the season.

Fredgaard has signed a four-year contract after his club accepted a £1.5m fee. Fredgaard, who can play up front or in an attacking midfield role, is considered one of the best prospects currently playing in Danish football.

Ronaldo has been voted the second-worst current Brazilian footballer in a newspaper poll. The Corinthians player, 19, polled 130 votes, but Ronaldo, twice voted world player of the year, came second with 73 votes.

POLAND SQUAD (European Championship qualifier v England, Warsaw, March): Goalkeepers: Mazurkiewicz (Lech Poznan), Szymanski (Wisla Krakow). Defenders: Gargol (Lech Poznan), Szymanski (Wisla Krakow), Szymanski (Wisla Krakow), Szymanski (Wisla Krakow). Forwards: Szymanski (Wisla Krakow), Szymanski (Wisla Krakow), Szymanski (Wisla Krakow).



Matias Almeyda (right) rises above Venezia's Salvatore Miceli during Lazio's 2-0 Serie A victory at the Olympic Stadium in Rome yesterday

Reuters

Lucescu abandons Inter quest

FOR THE second time this season, Internazionale are looking for a new coach, after Mircea Lucescu resigned following his side's humiliating Italian League 4-0 defeat at Sampdoria yesterday. Vincenzo Montella's hat-trick and a fourth from the Argentine playmaker Ariel Ortega proved too much for Lucescu, just four days after Inter's elimination from the European Cup against Manchester United.

Lucescu arrived at Inter in December as a short-term replacement for the sacked Gigi Simoni. The Romanian coach agreed a seven-month contract and had already announced he was leaving at the end of the season. The former Juventus

EUROPEAN
ROUND-UP

coach Marcello Lippi, who left the champions last month, has been linked to Inter - but a deal has not yet been confirmed by the club or the coach.

The Serie A leaders Lazio made short work of Venezia yesterday, with two goals in the opening 15 minutes from Sergio Conceicao and the free-kick specialist Siniša Mihajlovic sealing their eighth successive victory at the Olympic stadium in Rome.

Lazio's early nerves were settled by Conceicao, who netted with a volley from Giuseppe Favalli's eighth-minute cross. Mihajlovic, who has now scored

seven of his eight goals this season direct from free-kicks, added a superb second from a dead-ball situation in the 14th minute to ensure that Lazio equalled last season's club record of 16 league matches without defeat.

Florentina recovered from the second-half dismissal of their Czech defender, Thomas Repka, to beat Fianenza 2-1 with a last-minute goal from Carmine Spisito.

Milan's title hopes looked doomed when Yusef Osmanovski's second goal of the match put Bari 2-1 up with 11 minutes left at San Siro, but Maurizio Ganz's injury-time penalty salvaged a fortuitous 2-2 draw for the home side.

The European Cup semi-finalists, Juventus, looked destined for their first defeat in eight matches under their new coach, Carlo Ancelotti, when Marco Delvecchio headed Roma in front in the second half. But the defender Mark Iuliano equalised from close range and it took a superb double save from the visitor's Austrian goalkeeper, Michael Konsel, to deny Juve's Nicola Amoruso a late winner.

Bordeaux cling to their one-point lead over Marseilles in the two-horse race for the French title with a tight 1-0 home win over Strasbourg on Saturday. After taking an 11th-minute lead through their captain Michel Pavon, Bordeaux were

indebted to some fine saves from their goalkeeper Ulrich Rame as they struggled to shake off the hangover from their 6-0 midweek Uefa Cup thrashing at Parma.

Marseilles, inspired by two goals from Fabrizio Ravanelli, enjoyed a 4-1 home victory over 10-man Lorient, whose goalkeeper Angelo Hugues was sent off in the first half for handling a shot by Florian Maurice outside the area.

The goalkeeper Oliver Kahn set a German Bundesliga record on Saturday as Bayern Munich profited from a late goal from Carsten Jancker to beat Werder Bremen 1-0 to record their eighth successive league victory. Kahn has now gone

723 minutes without conceding a goal - 82 minutes longer than Oliver Reck, who held the previous league record with 641 minutes for Werder Bremen in the 1987-88 season.

The Spanish League leaders, Barcelona, were grateful to their Dutch World Cup midfielder, Philip Cocu, whose two goals secured a 2-0 win at Real Sociedad yesterday.

Celta Vigo enjoyed a 3-0 win at home to Santander but Real Mallorca were beaten 2-1 at home by Deportivo La Coruna. John Toshack's Real Madrid side ground out their third successive league win, 2-0 against Extremadura, thanks to Raul's 18th league goal of the season and an own goal.

Todd left looking to heavens

THE MEETING of the two most restless spirits that live in the Hades between Premiership survival and Nationwide mid-table mundanity ended with Sunderland all but certain of ascending while the best Bolton can hope for is the purgatory of the play-offs.

"This season has again proved that there is a gulf between the divisions, with Nottingham Forest and Charlton at the bottom of the Premiership," the Bolton manager, Colin Todd, whose side were relegated last year by goal difference, said. "If we get there I'm going to have to spend money again, but just spending money doesn't guarantee staying there - you have to spend wisely."

This is the first time in four years that the two clubs have found themselves in the same di-

BY SCOTT BARNES

Sunderland 3
Bolton Wanderers 1

vision because they have seen so often, but Bolton were unable to change the course of a match which suggested that Sunderland are better equipped for survival than either club has been in recent years.

Although Thomas Sorensen, Peter Schmeichel's Danish deputy in goal, provides a solid backdrop, much of Sunderland's confidence must be in the exuberance of their attacking. Chris Makin and Michael Gray are adept defenders but they come alive when going forward. Gray's overlapping and Makin, for the second time in consecutive home games, made a

goal with precision passing.

Lee Clark is the creative fulcrum in midfield, spraying cross-field balls to the wingers. Allan Johnston caught the eye on Saturday with two goals but Nicky Summerbee down the right has been the more consistent performer, floating in crosses for Niall Quinn. The giant Irishman will be 33 when next season kicks off but has Kevin Phillips to do his leg work. In the 23rd minute Quinn's glance from a long clearance sent Phillips away to nearly score his 15th goal in a season that has been shortened by four months due to injury.

"I'm disappointed with the injury as I could have beaten the 35 goals I scored last season because we're creating so many chances," Phillips said afterwards.

"I am desperate to play in the Premiership. I have proved myself in the First Division and I want to step up again, like I did when I came here from Watford, and prove myself there. The Premiership is the pot of gold that keeps us going."

Such determination is driving Sunderland to the end of the rainbow despite already being 12 points clear and winning their 10th consecutive home game on Saturday. "In the dressing room before the game I felt they were up for it and desperate to get out. In that situation you don't need a team talk," Peter Reid, whose side was defeated in the play-off final on penalties last year, said.

It was no wonder, then, that when he was told that the result had mathematically secured them a place in this year's play-offs, a look came over his face as if he had just woken up in Hell.

Goals: Phillips 23 (1-0); Johnston, 28 (2-0); Johnston, 45 (3-1); Johnston, 53 (4-1). Sunderland (4-2-7): Sorensen; Makin, Neville, Crook, Gray; Summerbee, Ball, Clark (Williams, 57); Johnston; Quinn (Daly, 72); Phillips (Bridges, 82). Bolton Wanderers (4-2-7): Jaszkowski; Cox, Weir, Smith, Elliott; Johnson (Dodd, 64); Jensen, Fransen, Seltens (Gardner, 74); Holdsworth, Taylor (Gudjonsson, 74). Referee: A. Wiley (Salfordshire). Bookings: Sunderland: Makin, Ball, Neville, Bolton: Cox, Elliott, Fransen, Taylor. Man of the match: Clark. Attendance: 41,506.

Pearson to leave Premier League early

THE PREMIER LEAGUE'S commercial director Stephen Pearson is not being allowed to serve out a three-month notice after previously tendering his resignation. Confirmation comes in the aftermath of the forced resignations of the league's chairman Sir John Quinton and its chief executive Peter Leaver. Pearson, 33, is believed to be

setting up a promotions company after being informed by the League that he will not be required to serve out his term. His No 2, Malcolm Crease, is also leaving his post.

Both men will be paid for the remainder of the contracts although they will not be returning to the London offices of the Premier League at any stage.

"The new management team has taken steps to safeguard the commercial arrangements of the Premier League," a Premier League spokesman, Mike Lee, said. "We are continuing to look at the activities of the outgoing commercial department. We have ensured that our commercial partners will not suffer as a result of recent events and

we are acting decisively to protect the interests of the League and our sponsors."

Leaver and Quinton were both forced out of office on earlier this month after awarding contracts to two television consultants, Sam Chisholm and David Chance, without telling the Premier League's 20 chairmen.

EUROPE'S WEEKLY AMERICAN FOOTBALL NEWSPAPER

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Joe Vito 1550



Uplifting tale of Ryan and the Rovers revival

SPARE A minute or two? Drag your eyes away from what is going on at the top of the Premiership and take a look at the Nationwide Conference table. At the bottom, to be more specific, and ask yourself this: what happened to Doncaster Rovers?

Didn't they used to be there, rock solid on the bottom rung, destined to fall like a stone from the Third Division to the UniBond League in little over 12 months of night-mare decline? Not any more. Nowadays, you need to look almost to halfway in the Conference chart to find Ian

Snodin's team. Given their recent history it is a remarkable transformation. The recovery owes much to Snodin, but something also to the new men in the boardroom, led by the businessman John Ryan, whose Chesbire-based company enjoys one of the more unusual claims to fame as the supplier of breast implants to Melinda Messenger. After the club's horrendous times under the now-jailed Ken Richardson, Ryan has provided Rovers with an uplift they scarcely thought possible.

The extent of the club's revitalised ambition can be illustrated in the unveiling of a new signing in Saturday's 4-1 defeat of now-bottom Welling United in front of almost 3,000 fans. This was not some ex-pub league no-hoper, but a 20-year-old winger dubbed the "new Ryan Giggs" in non-League circles.

Rovers paid £25,000 to Garforth Town, pipping Middlesbrough and Bolton Wanderers among others, to get Andy Watson, who then scored on his debut. He may not yet feel like the new Giggs, but Rovers must feel like Manchester United.

Fans cycle 180 miles to see 'home' game

HOW DID you get to the match this weekend - bus? train? car? aeroplane? Possibly even by bicycle, although probably not if your starting point was 180 miles away.

That particular obstacle, however, did not deter one group of intrepid Scunthorpe United supporters, who decided to cycle to their team's home match against Leyton Orient at Glanford Park - starting outside the opposition's ground in East London.

The journey was not simply an act of eccentricity on the part of Ian Tremayne, Chris Vaughan, Roly Roberts and Paul Rhodes. It had a worthy purpose, to raise money for cancer research. The quartet, whose ages ranged from 29 to 58, are all members of the

Scunthorpe United London and South-East Supporters Club. They chose the Orient fixture in memory of John Birkett, their former chairman, who died of cancer last May. His home was just yards from Brisbane Road.

The cyclists exceeded their £3,000 target by more than 50 per cent. "The club have been brilliant," Tremayne said. "All the directors made donations and we were given free tickets for the game."

Orient's chairman Barry Hearn made a contribution, too, presenting the quartet with a signed shirt, while Cambridge United allowed them to stage a collection in the Abbey Stadium's social club when the ride passed through on Friday evening.

THAT WAS THE WEEKEND THAT WAS

EDITED BY JON CULLEY

PREMIERSHIP TEAM OF THE WEEK

PAOLO DI CANNO West Ham United	RAY PARLOUR Arsenal	ROBBIE STOCKDALE Middlesbrough
HARRY KENNEL Leeds United	KEN MONAGHAN Southampton	MARK BOSCHICH Aston Villa
TOM ANDRE FLO Chelsea	LEE BOWYER Leeds United	MARIO MONTE Coventry City
	IAN HARTIE Leeds United	
	ANDY TOMLINSON Middlesbrough	

Manager of the week: George Graham - Showed he still has the trophy-winning touch as Tottenham recapture glory days. Performance of the week: Blackburn Rovers - bouncing back to reverse their drift towards relegation.

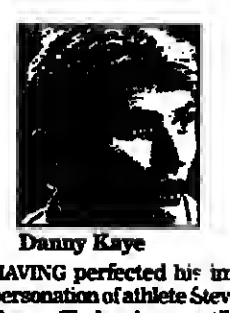
Missing... making it... and mistaken



DEREK LILLEY
LEEDS UNITED



ROBBIE STOCKDALE
MIDDLESBROUGH



TORE ANDRE FLO
CHELSEA

THE former Greenock Morton striker has been frustrated at every turn in his attempts to win a first-team place at Elland Road, slipping down the pecking order behind new signings and developing youngsters. Without a senior start in two seasons, reports suggest the 25-year-old could join Norwich this week with Leeds getting back the £500,000 they paid for him on deadline day in 1997.

BRYAN ROBSON has been accused of failing to back the younger members of his Middlesbrough squad, but 19-year-old Stockdale looks to be the exception to the rule. The locally-born wing-back made a solitary league start last season but has recently established himself on the right side of defence at the Riverside, clocking up his 16th appearance at Nottingham Forest on Saturday.

Danny Kaye HAVING perfected his impersonation of athlete Steve Cram, Chelsea's versatile goalscorer has now added the American entertainer Danny Kaye to his repertoire although, with cutting down his legs not an option, the Norwegian striker has to pretend to be wearing stilts under his trousers.

Magpies linked with Larsson raid

WITH DEADLINE DAY looming the biggest money may be splashed out by Newcastle, according to the Sunday Mirror, which believes Raul Gullit is poised to launch an £5m bid to land Celtic's prolific goalscorer, Henrik Larsson, who has 35 goals to his credit so far this season. Middlesbrough could emerge as the big spenders in the People's view with a £5.5m swoop for the West Bromwich striker Lee Hughes.

The Mirror says Liverpool will offer £5m for Celtic's former Bolton centre-back Alan Stubbs, who has also been a target for Aston Villa, but the People says Gerard Houllier has missed out on Finnish striker Jari Litmanen, who has opted to leave Ajax for Barcelona. The Express reckons Houllier's sights are now on the Czech striker Vladimir Smicer, rated at £5m by his French club, Lens, and also a target for Internazionale and Paris St-Germain.

The People also reports plans by Arsenal to spend

£5m on Leicester's Emile Heskey this summer as insurance should hometown Nicolas Anelka be tempted to return to France, but says Tottenham will pip them in the chase for Peterborough's 17-year-old winger Matthew Etherington.

The Mail on Sunday says Manchester United have a summer spending spree in mind with Alex Ferguson looking to sign three Dutchmen - the Real Madrid midfielder Clarence Seedorf, Barcelona's Ronald de Boer and the Ajax goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar - at a combined cost of £30m. The Mirror says Monaco want United's current No 1, Peter Schmeichel, as replacement for the Milan-bound Fabien Barthez.

The Mail on Sunday and Express both say Juninho is eager to join Leeds United, while the News of the World claims Nottingham Forest want David Platt to take over from Rob Atkinson as man

SEEN AND HEARD

OLD-FASHIONED LOGIC: "We probably scored too early" - Jim Smith explains Derby County's 4-1 defeat at Leeds. LANGUAGE COACH: "I think the chaps know the pressure is on now" - Gianluca Viali becomes the first Italian manager to describe his players as chaps. That's what talking to Ray Wilkins does for you. ENJOY IT WHILE IT LASTS: "He's not how people maybe see him - he's made a big mistake but he's over that now. I never thought he was a gambler" - The West Ham manager, Harry Redknapp, drools over Paolo Di Canio.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

	Home	Away	5-game form	
	Pt	Pts	GD	W D L F A
1. Man. Utd	30	63	+33	11 5 0 26 4
2. Arsenal	30	59	+29	10 5 0 26 4
3. Chelsea	30	54	+24	10 5 0 26 4
4. Leeds	30	54	+22	10 3 2 27 7
5. West Ham	30	46	+16	9 3 2 27 7
6. Aston Villa	30	44	+2	8 2 5 25 24
7. Derby	30	44	0	7 5 3 19 15
8. Wimbledon	30	40	-10	7 5 3 19 15
9. Liverpool	29	39	-15	7 5 3 19 15
10. Tottenham	29	39	0	7 6 2 24 17
11. Middlesbrough	29	39	-1	5 8 1 19 10
12. Newcastle	30	38	-3	7 3 5 22 19
13. Sheffield Wed	30	35	+2	6 3 5 17 12
14. Leicester	28	34	-9	5 4 5 19 21
15. Coventry	30	31	-11	6 5 4 20 16
16. Everton	30	31	-12	3 8 4 9 9
17. Blackburn	30	30	-40	6 3 6 19 19
18. Southampton	30	29	-28	7 2 6 22 22
19. Charlton	29	28	-7	4 5 3 18 13
20. Nottm Forest	30	20	-32	1 6 8 13 28

NATIONWIDE FIRST DIVISION

	Home	Away	5-game form	
	Pt	Pts	GS	W D L F A
1. Sunderland	38	85	74	16 2 1 49 9
2. Ipswich	38	73	54	13 1 5 28 11
3. Bradford	37	70	66	13 3 3 41 16
4. Birmingham	38	68	59	10 7 2 29 12
5. Bolton	37	64	68	11 5 3 35 22
6. Wolves	37	59	53	9 8 1 29 15
7. Sheff Wed	37	56	60	10 5 4 35 25
8. Watford	38	55	51	8 8 3 23 17
9. Huddersfield	38	54	51	7 1 36 19
10. West Brom	38	53	61	11 2 6 38 25
11. Grimsby	35	50	35	9 4 4 22 15
12. C Palace	38	49	52	10 8 1 39 22
13. Millwall	37	49	50	8 9 3 28 22
14. Tranmere	38	46	50	6 5 8 28 26
15. Stockport	38	45	43	6 7 6 21 10
16. Portsmouth	38	43	49	9 5 5 30 19
17. Barnsley	37	42	44	5 7 6 27 23
18. Swindon	38	46	41	7 6 6 24 17
19. Okech	37	46	41	7 7 5 19 19
20. Bury	38	36	29	7 7 5 19 19
21. Port Vale	36	35	30	7 2 8 16 24
22. Oxford	38	35	37	6 7 6 24 25
23. Crewe	36	33	43	5 4 9 25 38
24. Bristol C	36	29	45	4 8 7 27 33

FOOTBALL RESULTS

<div>WORTHINGTON CUP FINAL</div> <div>Leicester (0) - 1 Tottenham (0) - 1</div> <div>77,892</div> <div>Tottenham's Josiah Edinburg sent off, 63 (on Wednesday)</div> <div>FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP</div> <div>Southampton (0) - 1 Aston Villa (0) - 1</div> <div>39,217</div> <div>Wolves (0) - 1 Everton (0) - 1</div> <div>39,217</div> <div>Manchester City (0) - 1 Tottenham (0) - 1</div> <div>39,217</div> <div>Manchester City (0) - 1 Tottenham (0) - 1</div> <div>39,217</div> <div>Manchester City (0) - 1 Tottenham (0) - 1</div> <div>39,217</div> <div>Manchester City (0) - 1 Tottenham (0) - 1</div> <div>39,217</div> <div>Manchester City (0) - 1 Tottenham (0) - 1</div> <div>39,217</div> <div>Manchester City (0) - 1 Tottenham (0) - 1</div> <div>39,217</div> <div>Manchester City (0) - 1 Tottenham (0) - 1</div> <div>39,217</div> <div>Manchester City (0) - 1 Tottenham (0) - 1</div> <div>39,217</div> <div>Manchester City (0) - 1 Tottenham (0) - 1</div> <div>39,217</div> <div>Manchester City (0) - 1 Tottenham (0) - 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BOOK
OF THE
WEEK

King Of The World by David Remnick
Random House, \$35
hardback

THERE WERE times in heavy-weight boxing when the high wisdom of people such as Eugenia Williams was not needed. This was the early 1960s, when Sonny Liston was knocking over the frightened Floyd Patterson and the big bear himself was then stopped consecutively by two fighters called Cassius Clay and Muhammad Ali, who fought almost identically. No wonder Liston got confused.

It is a brief era, and the only era, covered by this book, so browsers who see just Ali's face on the cover and title "King Of The World" should not get as bemused as old Sonny.

It is not the intention, but this is a sad story. Patterson is characterised as a frightened scrapper, Liston locked in the unforgiving knuckles of the Mafia and, of course, Ali is Ali. These men, you remember, are supposed to be the winners. The rheumy eyes will get pleasure from this as Remnick depicts Ali in the days when he almost made you believe in the great boxing falsehood: that this is an art or application wherein a man can hit but not be hit, the sweet science.

As the author himself points out, these preliminary deeds of Ali are about as relevant to anyone under 40 as Agincourt might be. The Greatest can no longer smile and he speaks haltingly. It is a cruel affliction for one so formerly eloquent. "I don't intend to leave it [boxing] with ugly souvenirs of my career," he once announced. "I won't retire from boxing with cuts, cauliflower ears and a busted nose."

"I'll leave boxing physically intact, just as I am now. I will do this because my style of boxing protects me from cuts and injuries, yet it wins. I beat my opponents, you might say, gently."

There is a brief audience with the Ali of today, brief because that is all he can manage now. In this conversation, he closes his eyes and drifts off, probably to better days. It is easier, if not morally correct, to remember him in healthier times.

There is further reference to the modern day and, as the life and career of Liston is analysed, it is striking how much he compares to a present fighter: the early deprivation, the installation of fear into his opponents and the downfall once his bullying was exposed. Mike Tyson better be careful. Sonny Liston died at age 38.

RICHARD EDMONDSON

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TOP TEN BOOKS

- 1 BBC Radio 5 Live Sports Yearbook 1999, edited by Peter Nichols (Oodball), paperback, £14.00.
- 2 Richmond Rugby League Yearbook, 1999, Raymond Fletcher (Headline), paperback, £17.99.
- 3 Year Book and Ticket Book, Eddy Brimston (Headline), paperback, £6.99.
- 4 Football Memories, Brian Glanville (Virgin), hardback, £16.99.
- 5 Raceform Horses in Training 1999 (Raceform), paperback, £13.99.
- 6 Virgin Formula 1 1999 Pocket Annual (Virgin), paperback, £5.99.
- 7 Conquest and Crusade - The 1998 Tour de France, Velo News (Velo Press), paperback, £16.95.
- 8 Bold Warne - Shane Warne and Australia's Rise to Cricket Dominance, Roland Perry (Random House Australia), hardback, £21.95.
- 9 Playing For Keeps - Michael Jordan and the World He Made, David Halberstam (Random House USA), hardback, £21.50.
- 10 Ka Mate! Ka Mate! New Zealand's Conquest of British Rugby, Spira Zovis (Viking NZ), paperback, £14.95.

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Thorpe ready to take his place on England's World Cup stage



Derek Pringle talks to an international cricketer keen to turn winter frustration into summer celebration

SPRING IS here and the countdown to the cricket season, plus that promised carnival of cricket, the World Cup, has begun. But if mother nature allows things to unfurl gradually at this time of year, England's one-day squad are off next Sunday to stretch their limbs in Pakistan and Sharjah as a curtain-raiser to the main event. An early flowering will be crucial for those teams eager to bear fruit in early June, when the competition comes to a climax.

Fatiduous preparation is crucial these days, though for players like Graham Thorpe, Surrey's skilled and doughty left-handed batsman, there is much more at stake. Thorpe, along with three other members of the World Cup squad, Michael Atherton, Neil Fairbrother and Ian Austin, have all recently been in the wars. For them, Sharjah, where England play India and Pakistan twice each for the Coca-Cola Cup, is both a warm-up and a final fitness test.

"I'm really looking forward to Sharjah massively," says Thorpe, a man who rarely fakes enthusiasm for the sake of it. "After working and training a lot indoors to overcome my back problems, I'm sure to be a little apprehensive at loading the body under match conditions again. But outdoors is where the skills of the game are best used and where they count most, so I can't wait to get out there."

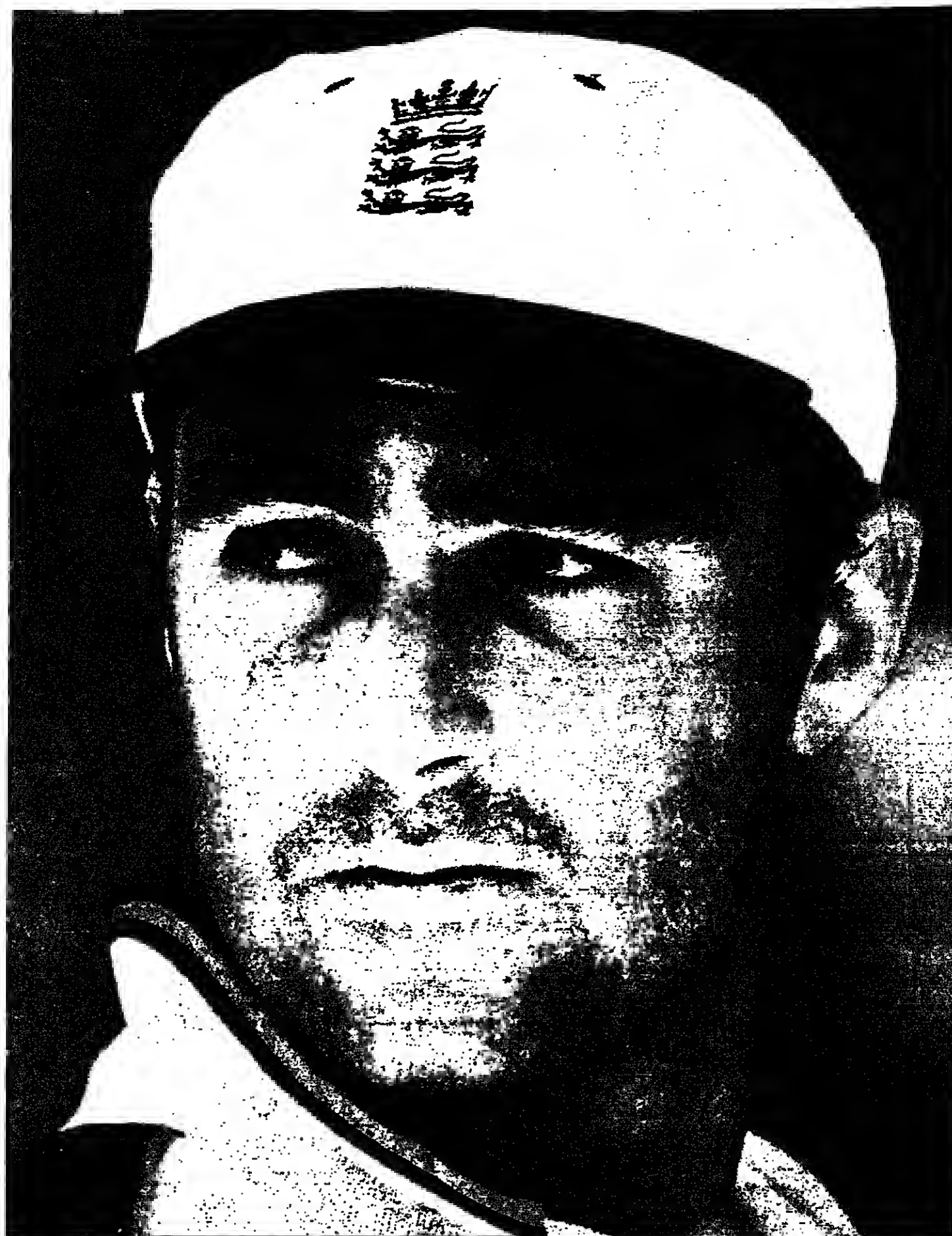
Thorpe's problem, which forced him to abandon England's Ashes tour midway through, was a general lack of stability in his lower back. At the time, many presumed it was linked to the operation he underwent the previous July to remove a cyst on a spinal facet joint, though this has subsequently been rejected.

"When it happened in Australia, it felt like something new rather than a chronic injury. But it's one of those frustrating things, where no easy cure is available. In the end, it has been a question of strengthening and stabilising the pelvis and generally re-educating myself over posture."

Injury can often sap a person's spirit, and it is good to see that Thorpe has yet to succumb to the numbing frustrations, sometimes associated with overcoming it. He even chuckles at the irony of driving a sponsored car provided by Fosterlight, a company which specialises in furniture for people with bad backs.

Mind you, he has many reasons to be buoyant and the rehab, under the guidance of England's doctor, Philip Bell, and the physiotherapists at the Barbican House appears to have done the trick. Last week Thorpe was given the go-ahead to tour Sharjah.

"It's been a hard two months physically, but the mental rest I've had from not staying in Aussie has been a bonus. It was an unfortunate way to get a break fit is the first time Thorpe has spent most of the winter in England for 10 years! but, looking back, I probably needed it." In fact, once back he kept only a cursory eye on proceedings in Aus-



Graham Thorpe's winter opened promisingly with an unbeaten 223 for England against South Australia in Adelaide in partnership with Mark Ramprakash (left), but within a month he had suffered a back injury (right) which put him out of the tour. David Ashdown/Reuters

tralia. "As there is nothing you can do about things, you don't feel part of it, even though they are close mates."

As most injured sportsmen will tell you, hard work is vital, for there are few stigma worse in a professional sporting career than that of being considered injury-prone. "As a career, cricket has a limited lifespan, so when you get injured,

fears inevitably enter your head about how long you have left. I'm 29, but the way you hear people talk about me, you'd think I was an old crock."

"It is difficult, but you've got to stay philosophical about it. People - usually those who don't understand - are always getting on others' backs over injury. The important thing is to stay upbeat and not get

paranoid about things. I've chatted to Atherton about his problems and how to deal with the pain. Obviously, if I overwork my back at the moment it hurts, but the trick is to learn the difference between the pains and twinges of muscles working hard and real danger signs."

Ever since sportsmen first accepted money for their services, there has always been a pressure

for injured players to return to the fray sooner than nature intended, especially if they are world-class performers like Thorpe. In hindsight, his return to play for Surrey in the last game of the 1998 season, less than two months after his back operation, was probably a mistake.

"Actually I'd always earmarked that game to play in once I'd had the operation. I suppose, had Surrey not

been second in the Championship, I probably wouldn't have played. That was the difference when I came back from Australia - there was no rushing. Instead there was time to sit down, assess the matter and plan the rehabilitation step by step. This time it's been thorough. I've even watched videos of my body positions when batting and fielding, and, although I'm not looking to make big changes, I'll have to try and keep some movements within a certain range."

Thorpe apart, nobody will be hoping that the slowly-slowly approach has worked more than the England captain, Alec Stewart. As a fellow member of the same Surrey side for the past decade, Stewart needs no reminding of how much England's one-day batting line-up missed Thorpe. Indeed, when it comes to indispensability, Thorpe probably heads the list - how else could England's selectors justify dropping Thorpe's good friend, Nasser Hussain?

During the recent one-day series in Australia, the one glaring weakness England had, apart from rarely getting a good start, was keeping the score moving during the middle overs without losing wickets. Hussain made a decent fist of it but blew his big chance in the first of the one-day finals against Australia.

Having all but won the game for England, the Essex captain committed the cardinal sin of getting out with the job unfinished. Predictably, England collapsed from a seemingly impenetrable position to hand Australia the match.

Playing the middle overs is a deceptive skill. With the field set deep and defensive, the nuances are not always apparent to the untrained eye, which tends to notice the bluffers and bashers that begin and end the typical limited-overs innings.

Instead of big shots, with their added risk factor, clever placement and manipulation of the ball, as well as shrewd running, are the modus operandi required mid-innings. Inevitably, shot selection has to be spot on, something at which a fit and confident Thorpe, who averages 40.05 from his 44 one-day internationals, is an acknowledged master.

The trip to Sharjah, while hopefully providing a stepping stone to the resumption of Thorpe's career, is likely to come at a price, and Thorpe's wife Nicky - he first met her in neighbouring Dubai during a Surrey pre-season tour there in the early 90s - is expecting their second child slap bang in the middle of the tournament.

"It is not easy to sacrifice such moments to the job and I thought about it long and hard. But my career does help to support my family, so playing in Sharjah will hopefully be good for all of us. I just hope the baby either comes early or late, then I can be there."

Notwithstanding the importance of Sharjah as a yardstick for his fitness, you get the impression that the World Cup, which follows it a month later, means an awful lot to Thorpe.

"It's simply the pinnacle of the one-day game - a pressure event that tests both your consistency and your nerve. Mind you, if we won it, I think it would only mean a lot to people for a short time, though hopefully it would help get youngsters involved in cricket generally."

Firstly, though, Sharjah has to be negotiated by both Thorpe and England. Inevitably, and in spite of the vastly differing conditions between those found in the Arabian Gulf and an English May, conclusions about players and England's overall chances of making the World Cup final are bound to be made.

"We will all be taking one thing at a time," Thorpe says. "Obviously we'd like to win both tournaments, but Sharjah is really about our World Cup squad being and working together. Getting players to get is very important and it increases your chances of winning. I'm just looking to contribute to that."

THE WEEK AHEAD: MAIN EVENTS

TODAY

FIGURE SKATING: The World Championships get underway in Helsinki. Whatever happened to British supremacy on the ice?

THURSDAY

RACING: Doncaster. Although the flat season never really ends due to all-weather tracks, this meeting marks the start of a new year on turf. The Town Moor card normally has the honour of being the opening day's only meeting (it is still the first, starting at 1.30). But it is joined this year by Windsor (starts 2.25). Will this season see the Godolphin team, headed by Saeed bin Suwaid, emerge as the top trainers again, or will Henry Cecil manage to reassert his authority to move up a spot from second? Will Kieren Fallon, top jockey with 204 wins last year (to Frank Dettori's second-placed 133) be top jockey again? Traditionalists will tell you that the season does not start in earnest until Newmarket's Craven meeting on 13 April, but try telling the horses that.

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL: European Under-21 Championship Group Five match: England v Poland at The Dell.

Supporters at the south-coast ground get a rare chance to see some high-class football.

CRICKET: Start of the third Test between Australia and the West Indies in Barbados. All eyes will be on Brian Lara and his side following the Windies' remarkable win in the Second Test in Kingston. Lara's astonishing double century underpinned that victory, which brought an end to a six-game losing streak and made more nations than just Australia sit up and take notice.

SATURDAY

ATHLETICS: The World Cross-country Championship, Belfast. Kenya's Paul Tergat will attempt to become the first man in history to win the event for a fifth consecutive year. Last year he became only the second man ever (following his compatriot John Ngugi) to win four.

FOOTBALL: Euro 2000 qualifiers: England v Poland (Group Five). Kevin Keegan's day of destiny arrives at Wembley as he puts on his national coach's cap and attempts to revive England's stuttering campaign against Poland. Under Glenn Hoddle, the side lost away to Sweden, drew at home with Bulgaria and beat the minnows of Luxembourg in the first three qualifiers. Keegan would love it, he'd really love it, if England could make a winning start un-

der his direction and, although there are doubts over the fitness of Michael Owen, there should be no lack of commitment from the players. "If you want a 0-0 draw I'm not your man," Keegan said last week. Let's hope that fate doesn't deliver a 0-1 instead. Northern Ireland entertain the out-of-form Germany (Group Three) in Belfast, while Scotland host Bosnia (Group Nine) at Ibrox and should have few problems moving (albeit temporarily) to the top of their pack.

RUGBY LEAGUE: Salford Challenge Cup semi-final. Castleford, four-time winners of the trophy, take on the London Broncos, trying to reach Wembley for the first time, at Headingley. The Broncos will at least be able to call on the experience of Shaun Edwards and Martin Offiah, veterans of 11 Wembley wins with Wigan.

SUNDAY

RUGBY LEAGUE: Salford Challenge Cup semi-final. Leeds Rhinos v Bradford Bulls at the McAlpine Stadium, Huddersfield.

TENNIS: The finale of the Lipton Championships in Florida. By this stage of the week we will know if the Spaniard, Carlos Moyá, has retained the World No. 1 status he achieved last week, or whether someone else has nipped ahead to take pole position.

TODAY

14.10-14.45 BBC2 *Spring Green* Steve Owen talks to Graham Thorpe. **14.45-15.30 BBC2** *Match of the Day* Stan Bowles talks to Gareth Crooks. **15.30-15.55 BBC1** *A Question of Sport* With Jonathan Edwards, Mark Ramprakash, WS Carr and David Buzby. **15.55-16.30 BBC2** *Play for Real* England's Sheffield Wednesday's (two goals) are visited by the FA to play at England's World Cup games and, such is the nature of modern celebrity and its attendant pressures, things become tense and fractious. Now they have ambitions to become the world's first professional supporters. Now downsizing... **16.30-17.00 BBC2** *Play for Real* More from the women's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **17.00-17.30 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the men's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **17.30-18.00 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the women's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **18.00-18.30 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the men's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **18.30-19.00 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the women's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **19.00-19.30 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the men's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **19.30-20.00 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the women's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **20.00-20.30 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the men's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **20.30-21.00 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the women's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **21.00-21.30 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the men's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **21.30-22.00 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the women's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. 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**73.00-73.30 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the men's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **73.30-74.00 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the women's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **74.00-74.30 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the men's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **74.30-75.00 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the women's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **75.00-75.30 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the men's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **75.30-76.00 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the women's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **76.00-76.30 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the men's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **76.30-77.00 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the women's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **77.00-77.30 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the men's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **77.30-78.00 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the women's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **78.00-78.30 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the men's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **78.30-79.00 BBC2 *Play for 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in Key Biscayne, Florida. **84.30-85.00 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the women's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **85.00-85.30 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the men's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **85.30-86.00 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the women's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **86.00-86.30 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the men's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **86.30-87.00 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the women's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **87.00-87.30 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the men's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **87.30-88.00 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the women's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **88.00-88.30 BBC2 *Play for Real* More from the men's event in Key Biscayne, Florida. **88.30-89.00 BBC2**

British hopes fade in Florida

LEE WESTWOOD and Colin Montgomerie both slipped out of contention on Saturday's third day of the Bay Hill Invitational in Orlando, Florida.

Westwood had been just four shots off the lead at the halfway point but after a one-over-par 73 in the third round he trailed the joint front-runners, Tim Herron and Davis Love, by 10 strokes. He was joined on 212, four under par, by Montgomerie, who fired a 72, as Herron and Love pulled on the pressure with rounds of 67 each.

Tom Lehman was one shot back in third place after his third-round 66, while Brandel Chamblee, who entered at the last minute after suffering a back injury three weeks ago, was a further three strokes adrift in fourth after a round of 67.

Ian Woosnam and Bernhard Langer were both way down the field on 216, but at least they were two shots ahead of the world No 1, Tiger Woods, who could only manage a 72.

Love and Herron displayed contrasting games but finished the day as they started it, tied for the lead. Love had eight birdies and three bogeys in a wildly fluctuating round, while Herron carried five birdies in a flawless performance as both completed five-under-par rounds of 67 under ideal conditions on the Bay Hill course.

With hardly a breath of wind, only firm greens prevented the strongest field in the world this year from averaging better than 71.3 strokes.

In Arizona, Britain's Laura Davies saw her bid for a fifth Standard Register Ping title falter when she could only manage a third-round level-par 72 in tough, breezy conditions at Moon Valley Phoenix, Arizona.

GOLF

BY DERRICK WHYTE

Davies saw her bid for a fifth Standard Register Ping title falter when she could only manage a third-round level-par 72 in tough, breezy conditions at Moon Valley Phoenix, Arizona.

Davies, who set an LPGA record with four tournament wins in a row from 1994, remained the leading Briton - a shot ahead of Scotland's Catriona Matthew - on four under par but was seven shots behind the leader, Karrie Webb of Australia. Webb topped her chances of a third win of the season with a round of 69 for an 11-under-par 205 overall and a two-shot lead over the Canadian Lorie Kane.

Webb, the US money-leader this year with earnings of almost £200,000, had four birdies as she continued a phenomenal start to the season in which she has never finished lower than eighth in five starts. Last month she won the Australian Masters by 10 shots with a tour record score of 28 under par.

Kane, seeking her first tour win, had a 71, but the overnight leader, Tracy Hanson, crashed out of contention with an 81, leaving her at level par on 216.

Sweden's Annika Sorenstam claimed her first career hole-in-one with an eight iron at the 149-yard second hole. The world No 1 went on to shoot a 71 to finish four under par. Matthew, who finished third in Tucson last week, had four birdies in her round of 70.



Lee Westwood strolls barefoot across the 17th green at Bay Hill

Reuters

Thomas benefits from Welsh winning habit

THE ITALIANS thought this was going to be their big moment. They took the game to the rugby hot-bed of Treviso, packed the ground with 7,000 expectant fans and felt confident they were going to be good enough to beat Wales for the first time in six starts.

After all, this Italian side had come within a decent refereeing decision of beating England in a World Cup qualifier in Huddersfield four months ago and was packed with experience.

In the end, though, they were blown away by a Welsh side playing with ever increasing stature and confidence following their win over France in Paris two weeks earlier. There was a ruthless edge about everything they did, greater understanding of the style the coach Graham Henry wants his team to adopt and complete dominance of the Italians.

Three tries in the first win on French soil for 24 years were good, but seven in Treviso were more than almost any side in the world has managed against the Italians in recent years.

There was a 30-minute purple patch in the second half when almost everything went

RUGBY UNION

BY ROB COLE in Treviso

Italy	21
Wales	60

right and the game turned into a romp for Wales. The measure of the advances made was superbly illustrated by the four tries that flowed in that time.

Having got off to a flying start, with Craig Quinell notching his third try in as many games from a six-minute line-out, some silly errors allowed the Italians to claw their way back. By half-time, though, Gareth Thomas had steadied the ship with the first of his record-equaling four tries and Wales were back in front by two points.

Then came the onslaught. Thomas was sent between the posts by Scott Gibbs and a minute later Dafydd James released Neil Jenkins on a 40-metre run. There were two more in as many minutes at the start of the final quarter when Thomas raced in from half-way and Rob Howley gathered a loose ball six metres out. Jenkins' boot made the dam-

age even greater. By the end of the game he had extended by six his own Welsh points record for a match with 30.

The Italians grabbed a consolation try through the No 8 Diego Scaglia, but there was no stopping Wales or Thomas and the Cardiff wing joined the immortals by gaining a fourth on the stroke of time to rank him alongside Willie Llewellyn, Reggie Gibbs, Maurice Richards, Iwan Evans and Nigel Walker in the record books.

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Now doesn't that, too, remind you of England's last match-winning outside-half? As, on Saturday, did his touch-kicking from the hand, which was a model of prudence and reliability but lacked the sense of adventure that Mike Catt brought to his raking touchfinders. When Clive Woodward finally decides to make the switch, we'll learn how deep that prudence runs, and how much of a boy's spirit lives behind that mature facade.

SPORT

t Angry Agassi abandons Davis Cup

DISCORD CONTINUES to blight the Americans, who are due to announce their Davis Cup squad today for their first round encounter with Britain at Easter. The latest rift concerns the United States Tennis Association's decision to dispense with the team's doctor, George Fareed.

Andre Agassi's response was to vow that he would never play in the Davis Cup again, having already declared himself unavailable for the forthcoming match in Birmingham, along with Pete Sampras. "They just fired George Fareed," Agassi said, breaking the news to the American media, "that's the last straw for me."

Fareed had been the team's doctor for eight years, succeeding his late father, Omar, whose respected court-side manner dated back to the old professional tour, where his medical expertise enabled the likes of Pancho Gonzales and Jack Kramer to play matches night after night.

"Good old Omar, God rest his soul, was there for the team on every level," Agassi said. "George came in and did the exact same thing. The players loved him. He goes to the wall for you during Davis Cup weeks, and away from Davis Cup weeks. [The USTA's decision] is just another example of how players aren't consulted about anything that happens. I didn't hear about it till last week. I'm done with Davis Cup."

Rick Ferman, the USTA's executive director, said Agassi's statement that the doctor was fired was "grossly overstated", explaining that Fareed was a casualty of the new regulations and standards the USTA is about to implement regarding medical staff. The requirements include board certificates in specific areas; completion of fellowship training; involvement on a daily basis with the treatment of professional athletes; and

TENNIS

BY JOHN ROBERTS
in Key Biscayne, Florida

significant experience in dealing with professional tennis players.

Agassi said that the USTA president, Judy Levering, had called his office to tell him about the Fareed decision. "She said that they have some concerns about him. That was it. Some legalities. Find out from them. They'll explain it better, I'm sure."

Ferman said: "Dr Fareed's service level was top notch, but his credentials do not match up to our requirements". He added that a new team doctor is due to be appointed this week.

Sampras, who has said he is missing the Davis Cup to concentrate on personal goals, said he was "shocked" to hear that Fareed had lost his job. "I've known George for many years. He's one of the nicest people I've met in tennis. It's not really my business who should be the doctor. I give my input. I like George. He seemed very knowledgeable."

Jim Courier, one of the players who is expected to fill the void Sampras and Agassi have left in the squad that will travel to Birmingham, said: "I don't know enough about [the situation] at the moment to make a comment, other than to say I think we all loved Doc Fareed and we'll certainly miss him dearly. I'll want to know why [this has happened] and try to understand it, because he's been such an integral part of our team."

The former world No 1, while agreeing that the timing of the doctor's dismissal was unfortunate, did not react with Agassi's vehemence regarding the Davis Cup. "I wouldn't say that [I won't play], if that's the case [with Andre]," Courier said. "I don't want to down-play the fact of how much I appreciate everything that Doc Fareed

does for our team. I'm disappointed that he's not going to be with us from here on in.

"I don't understand exactly the whole scenario yet. The continuity is a very nice part of a team. Although our team changes personnel player-wise, we've had the same medical staff, trainer, massage therapist and captain now for many years. To disrupt that is not the most helpful, certainly."

The 28-year-old Courier, ranked No 62 in the world, had just stepped off the Stadium Court at the Lipton Championships after a second round defeat by Sampras, 6-3, 7-6, but was in an optimistic mood. "I like the way I'm hitting the ball," he said. "I like the way I'm competing. It's like Brad [Stine], my coach, said to me after the match, 'Keep playing like that, you're going to win a lot of matches and do well.'"

Agassi, also aged 28 but ranked No 9, was unable to suppress the promising Slovak, Dominik Hrbaty, and slipped out in the second round with the deflation of two consecutive double-faults.

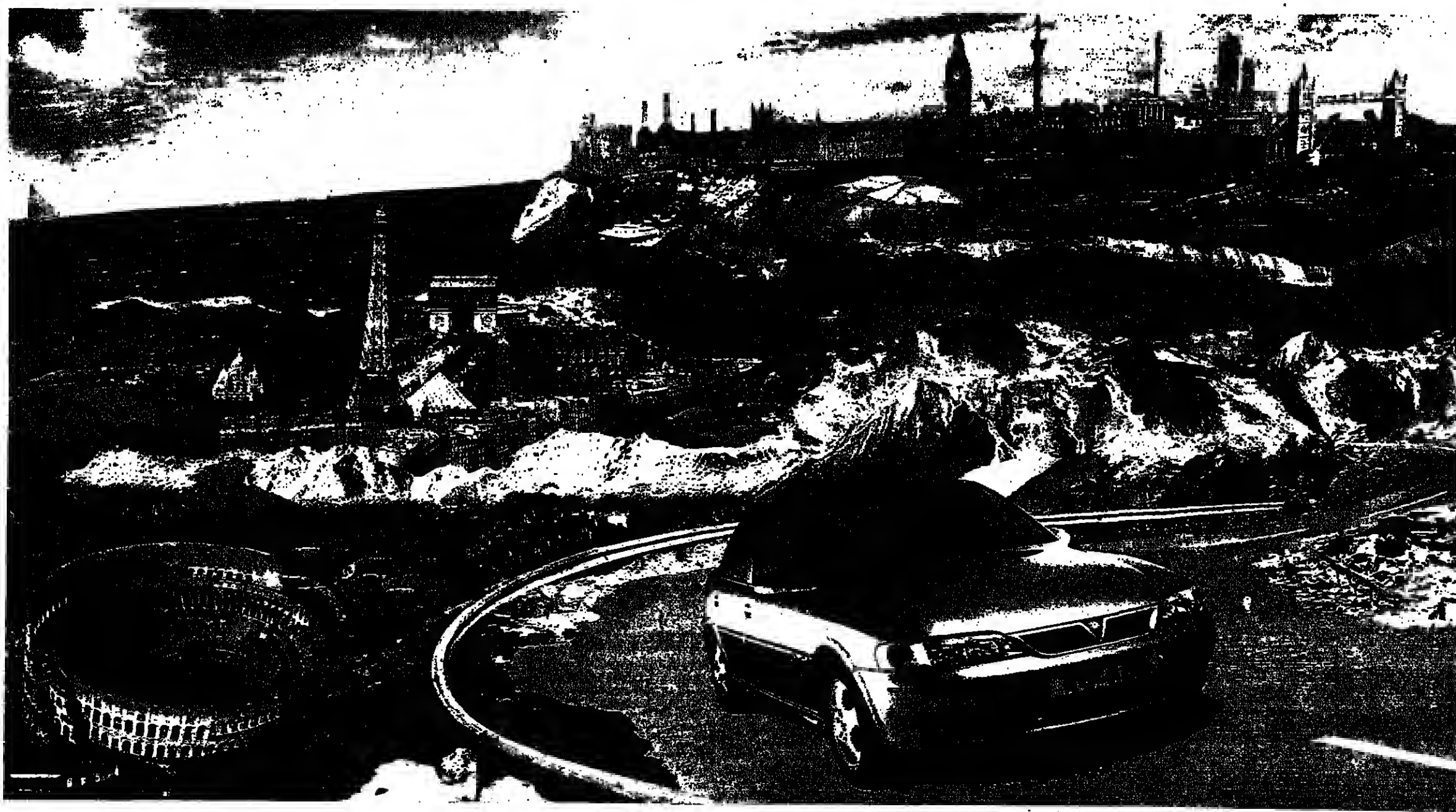
Tom Gullikson, the United States Davis Cup captain, intends to speak with Agassi in the hope that he will change his mind about playing in the Davis Cup in the future. "Never is a strong word," Gullikson said. "Maybe, hopefully, it's a reaction to the loss [to Hrbaty]."

Boris Becker's bade farewell to the Lipton singles, having found Marat Safin too strong for him in the second round, the 19-year-old Russian winning, 7-5, 6-0. "He has very raw power," Becker said. "If he's able to use it in a proper way, he's a future No 1. I haven't seen anybody hitting that hard from both wings for a long time."

Greg Rusedski advanced to the last 16 yesterday with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Germany's Hendrik Dreekmann. He now plays Australia's Pat Rafter or Nicolas Pietrangeli, of Germany.



Martina Hingis plays a backhand return during her 6-1, 6-1 third-round defeat of Amy Frazier at the Lipton Championships yesterday. AFP



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MONDAY REVIEW

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Poetry in motion

Benjamin Zephaniah is fed up with people labelling him. That's understandable, since he's a 40-year-old Jamaican-Brummie-London dyslexic rasta burglar jailbird turned dub-reggae poet activist. But what if the label was Poet Laureate?

Barking Road in east London stretches through three postal districts. It goes on for miles. It seems longer than Sunset Strip, though rather less glamorous. Mile after mile, there unrolls a landscape of urban grot, thrift shops and miserable eating-houses until, somewhere in the 700s, you find yourself in Newham. Newham is known for two things: being the home of West Ham football club and being a dangerous place for racial attacks a few years ago, especially by the Combat 18 boot-boys.

In the Newham Parents' Centre Bookshop – perhaps the most unlikely shop to find in these tough surroundings – Benjamin Zephaniah is waiting. A tall and striking fellow with an unconstructed Bear-mingham accent, he is sprouting hair like an old leather sofa. Curly sideburns wave around his cheeks. A black tangle sits on his chin like volcanic tuff. His matted dreadlocks dangle below his waist. "As a matter of fact, I'm not very hairy at all," he says. "I've never grown a beard. Never had a shave in me life. My hair's never been cut since I was 12. You'd have to make love with me to find out, but I have got the most silky smooth skin."

I'll take your word for it. He lives across the road from the bookshop and likes the cultural mix of the area. "There's a new East End around here," he says, "a lot of Caribbean and African and Asian people, but also a lot of the old white community who have extended families the same way that we always had when I was growing up. You can see them in the afternoons, exchanging babies and looking after each other's children." He always brings journalists here. He likes getting them out of central London and showing them his backyard – how much better it is than the centre, more racially integrated, with better schools and a real community spirit.

"When I did my first British tour in four years last autumn, we finished in London and I hired Stratford town hall, because I wanted to draw

people here and say, 'It can be done'. We had four or five hundred people at the town hall, a lot of local talent. Doreen Lawrence was on stage, just before the Stephen Lawrence enquiry. We invited refugees along and made it a political event." And when Radio 4's *Down Your Way* team asked him to nominate a favourite place: "Usually they want to go to the Lake District or somewhere, but I said, 'This is a place I love; why don't you come and do a programme about Newham and the people that make it tick?'"

Zephaniah is big on community. While the word has temporarily fallen into disrepute because of its invariable companion words "care in the", he's keen to give to communal experience a voice it won't otherwise have. He is a poet of the backyard. He... but here I must be cautious, because he is fed up with people calling him names. He is tired of taxonomies. He is exhausted with definitions. But I suppose when you're a 40-year-old Jamaican-Brummie-London

He left school at 13, expelled for being a rebel and "a born failure". A bad-boy teenager, he was sent to an approved school in Shropshire ("which wasn't a school at all. More a dating agency. No, I'm joking") and did a car-mechanics course. But he was angry, the National Front were active in Birmingham, and he turned to crime. "I used to think that anybody who had a car was the enemy. Rich people were the enemy of poor people. It took a while to realise it's not as simple as that." A spell of burglaries landed him in Winson Green nick. After prison he became a disc-jockey in Handsworth, selling his patter with comic stories of British life.

In the late Seventies he was one of the "ranters" who accompanied the punk explosion, people such as John Cooper Clarke, Jools, Linton Kwesi Johnson and Attila the Stockbroker, who would come on in the middle of a Clash concert and declaim simple, snarling bursts of agitprop and emotional disarray. "We all felt

live round here is that it's away from other poets," he says. "I don't like hanging out with other poets." His verse is simple, immediately understandable bar-room stuff, often funny and astute about white attitudes to black culture, but politically naive in that ghastly right-on Seventies manner, full of "government spies", arms dealers and iniquitous "politician men". Zephaniah should, by rights, have retired from the game years ago, like Attila and Cooper Clarke; instead his name keeps coming up. The elections for a new Oxford Professor of Poetry? Vote for Zephaniah. Nominations for Ted Hughes's replacement as Poet Laureate? How about Zephaniah? A South Bank programme on performance poetry? Step right up, Benjamin.

Why does it happen? Is it a middle-class giggle, to get a semi-literate black ex-convict with dreadlocks to storm the ivory towers on Parnassus? Or is it genuine respect?

It's quite possibly the latter. Zephaniah has been an ambassador of world poetry from South Africa to Palestine, from Argentina to Scandinavia. He is an inveterate traveller and visitor of schools and prisons and youth clubs. He is Mr Global Cool Guy, insisting on the primacy of the oral tradition in poetry, and the fundamental rhythms that are common to everyone.

"I remember being at a conference in South Africa, when this woman got up and started to perform a poem, not in Zulu or any dialect I recognised. It was an old patois thing. She said: 'What you do, we've been doing in South Africa for years, but we've lost touch with it, because of the big struggle with apartheid. This is what it used to be like.' What was amazing was that the rhythm was the same as a classic dub poem, though it was thousands of years old."

Zephaniah's conversation is full of such meetings, such impromptu exchanges. People are always coming up to him. They treat him as their personal poet. They harangue him for being insufficiently radical. "I get old black women in

BY JOHN WALSH

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VAUXHALL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Falklands claims

Sir: I disagree with Alastair Forsyth (Letters, 18 March) that the International Court would probably find in favour of the Argentine claim to the Falkland Islands. On all the normal grounds for claiming sovereignty Britain has the stronger claim.

The crucial point in modern international law is that, since 1833, Britain has enjoyed effective, continuous and peaceful possession, occupation and administration of the Falkland Islands – peaceful, that is, except for Galtieri's folly in 1982.

As for the primacy of territorial integrity mentioned by Ambassador Pöhl's letter, can he seriously claim that a group of islands separated from the mainland by over 200 miles of open Atlantic Ocean is an "integral" part of Argentina?

Surely the only sensible, humane solution to this sovereignty issue as we approach the new millennium is to let the people most involved – the Falkland Islanders – decide for themselves.

Sir REX HUNT
Chairman, the Falkland Islands Association
Sunningdale, Berkshire

Sir: The letter of the Ambassador of Argentina (18 March) reflects a serious historical amnesia.

The "colonial situation" did not begin in 1833 – when the British took over the Falkland Islands – but in 1516 when the Spanish began colonising Argentina. Modern "South Americans" are not the native population, which by the 19th century had been liquidated, so any talk of "self-determination" and continued exclusion of the original population seems rather anachronistic.

The true dimensions of "the problem" are five, not two, centuries of colonialism, none of which conforms to any principles the UN may now hold. Overall, the best solution seems to be the one suggested by Prince Charles: that two democracies have the maturity to recognise that the past is a different country and be prepared to make a better future by living together in peace.

DOMINIC KIRKHAM
Manchester

Molecular memory

Sir: Lionel Milgrom's account of Jacques Benveniste's research ("The memory of molecules", 19 March) failed to make it clear that the experiment discussed, where a biological signal is recorded, transmitted over the Internet, and applied to water elsewhere to regenerate the biological effects of the source, is not just an idea but rather an experiment that has already been carried out, with impressive results (see Benveniste's web pages at www.digbio.com).

We invited him to describe his work at our weekly colloquium to learn more about the research, which seems both scientifically interesting and potentially of considerable practical importance. While the results claimed may seem surprising, the Cavendish Laboratory has been host to many surprising discoveries during the 125 years of its existence, and the controversial nature of the claims was not seen as good cause to follow the herd and veto his making a presentation.

In regard to the Nature condemnation of 1983, my conclusion at that time was that its authors had made an insufficient case for its headline claim "High-dilution experiments a delusion", and nothing since has led me to see the frequent denunciations of the work as anything other than the hysteria that frequently accompanies claims that challenge the orthodox point of view.

The manifestations of scientific prejudice, well documented by Michel Schiff in the book *The Memory of Water*, can be extraordinary; another reason why we felt it important to invite Dr Benveniste to talk at our

colloquium and be able to present his results to scientists in an uncensored form. I am grateful to *The Independent* for following on with its article.

Professor BRIAN JOSEPHSON
Cavendish Laboratory
Department of Physics
University of Cambridge

Chinese and Welsh

Sir: Yasmin Alibhai-Brown (Comment, 18 March) writes of her distaste for devolution. She can accept that "Blacks and Asians" have a British identity but not a Welsh or a Scottish identity.

As an inhabitant of Wales I can reassure her that I have been able to be Welsh as well as enjoying my German, Polish and English heritage, whilst my children are able to be Welsh as well as retaining their Chinese heritage and language through the Chinese community in Wales.

Multiculturalism is a fact of life in Wales. Sadly, what also is a fact of life is unemployment, poverty-stricken hill farmers, dilapidated schools, cash-strapped hospitals and social inequality. These can be addressed more directly from Cardiff than from Westminster.

A loathing of racism is not a reason to avoid greater democratisation but rather a reason to embrace it. Yasmin Alibhai-Brown is doing the Black and Asian communities in Wales and Scotland a disservice by not positively encouraging them to vote and stand for election.

HANNA CHEUNG
Caernarfon, North Wales

Bad example

Sir: The chairman of the Advisory Committee on Releases into the Environment says: "The Americans are not stupid, and we should... examine why there is such a different attitude to GMOs on their side of the Atlantic." ("Tesco isolated over policy on GM foods", 18 March.)

He is referring I assume, to the same Americans who contribute massively to global warming, refuse to take part in a biotechnology convention and refuse to segregate GMOs or label foods containing GMOs, who have introduced laws to muzzle the press and prevent US "food scare" reports and who have recently permitted licences for the felling of their last old-growth forests.

Individually the Americans are not stupid, but collectively they do not know what they are eating, their politicians are controlled by big business, and their environmental record is dubious. They are no example for us to follow.

LESLEY ELLIS
Alton, Hampshire

Charity and tax

Sir: You suggest that the Government should decide for us which organisations are sufficiently "good" to be allowed to benefit from tax-breaks on donations by individuals (leading article, 19 March).

However, tax relief on charitable donations is given to individuals (who are thereby enabled to contribute more than they might

otherwise have chosen to do). The underlying principle is that the donor agrees to forgo some of their gross income for the benefit of others, and thus pays tax only on what remains. An appropriate test of eligibility for such tax relief is therefore whether the donor obtains any resulting personal benefit which they would not otherwise have received.

On this basis genuine donations to, for example, developing world charities, churches and even political parties should qualify for tax relief. Membership subscriptions of all kinds, and payments such as school fees, should not.

STAN ZACHARY
Edinburgh

Sir: You are quite right to identify tax relief for charities as a flawed concept but quite wrong in your solution to the problem. The way forward is not to discriminate between good charities and bad charities but to deny tax relief to them all. Tax relief for charities is just another way for the rich to transfer the burden of taxation to the poor. The less tax they pay the more we have to pay.

ROGER CHAPMAN
Keighley, West Yorkshire

IN BRIEF

does for charity. Since when has speaking the truth become sanctimonious? He has said many times that if the major stars when they tour gave the proceeds of just one concert to charity it would hardly hurt their bank balances. What a good start to the millennium to have less greed.

Mrs J SADLER
Liverpool

Sir: Dr Chris Dawson points out (letter, 19 March) that Jacques Santer in fact said

that he considered himself "entièrement blanchi" (completely cleared), rather than "whiter than white". While not wishing to question Dr Dawson's translation, I feel it is worth mentioning that in financial contexts *blanchi* means "laundered" – or perhaps, in this case, "taken to the cleaners".

NIGEL GREENWOOD
London N22

Sir: On the question of naming a millennium child, may I suggest – Bug?

J GREGORY
Beverly, Humberside

the case could otherwise be brought forward, for example, under a no win, no fee agreement, and without any recognition that not everyone can have a solicitor's office on the doorstep, any more than a hospital or a supermarket.

I want to maximise access to justice and to provide high-quality services as widely as possible, within reasonable limits on the resources available from the taxpayer's pocket. Those ends are not achieved by including defective clauses in Bills. My criticisms were about the drafting of the clause, and the way it was proposed ahead of more sensible alternatives, not the sentiments underlying it.

LORD IRVINE OF LAIRG
Lord Chancellor
House of Lords

Heart dilemmas

Sir: Your article about the dilemmas facing Chris and Daphne Ford when they discovered that their baby son had been buried without his heart (Review, 17 March) highlights issues which the NHS and healthcare professionals must take very seriously.

Clarity in giving information and integrity in seeking consent are essential in maintaining the confidence of patients and parents. Practices which were previously taken for granted are no longer acceptable. It was the determined arguments of Daphne and Chris Ford in 1992 that led us to change our policies at Great Ormond Street Hospital then, and similar policies are now in place at other paediatric centres.

But there may be an argument for a legislative framework or central guidance, and we have made it clear that we wish to contribute to that debate.

ROBERT CREIGHTON
Chief Executive
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust
London WC1

Double-banked

Sir: The irritation inflicted on A J Edwards by others' use of the phrase "PIN number" is nothing compared with my being made to write a monthly cheque to TSB Bank plc. I think it must be a ploy to get customers to change to direct debit.

ANDREW TEAL
Ripponden,
West Yorkshire

Apologise to Sudan

Sir: In view of the fact that there is to be a debate in the House of Commons next Wednesday, there is now an opportunity for MPs to make sure that the Government is open with us concerning the attack on the pharmaceutical factory in the Sudan by US missiles.

No chemicals of any kind which can be linked to nerve gas production have been found by new analyses of the soil around the factory. The factory was incapable of producing any such chemicals. There are no links between the factory and any terrorist activities.

Every time questions are asked in Parliament on these points the Prime Minister has replied evasively by reference to the early remarks of US officials, which everyone I know believes to have been mistaken. Now he is aware of the facts, can not the Prime Minister apologise and attempt to persuade the US government to do the same?

Professor R J P WILLIAMS FRSc
Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory
University of Oxford

Peaceful bedtime

Sir: I did a parenting course, Systematic Training for Effective Parenting, about a year ago. I too used to have a stressful time putting my children to bed ("But I'm not tired", 15 March). The facilitator encouraged me to try a new approach, which I was sceptical about initially.

I asked my children what time they would like to go to bed. They suggested one o'clock in the morning. The understanding was that they would put themselves to bed whenever they wished, but that they must get up in the morning by a specified time.

On the first night they went to bed ridiculously late but, as agreed, were up at 7am.

My very tired 10-year-old son said: "I think in future I will go to bed at 9.30 on schooldays, and allow myself a late night on Fridays and Saturdays." He had fixed a bedtime only half an hour later than the bedtime I had stressed myself out to achieve. His elder sister (then aged 12) followed suit.

REBECCA NG
London W6

Vicar's income

Sir: The pastoral reorganisation in the Gaulby group of parishes ("Vicar loses fight to keep his flock", 18 March) will not affect the Rev Ashley Cheesman's personal income at all. The quote from Roger Lyons, general secretary of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union that "his new parish will not provide sufficient income for a man with a wife and two children" is misleading.

The income of Anglican clergy is a stipend. Fees for baptisms, weddings and funerals are either assigned direct to the diocese, or a record is kept of such fees to report to the diocese and the stipend is adjusted accordingly through the Church Commissioners. This avoids the situation where some clergy would be paid more than others because they were in an area that has a high number of weddings, for example.

Emotional quotes such as using "an administrative measure effectively to starve him out", are inaccurate and unfair.

SUE KYRIAKOU
Bishop's Press Officer
Diocese of Leicester
Burton on Trent,
Staffordshire

Double-banked

Sir: The irritation inflicted on A J Edwards by others' use of the phrase "PIN number" is nothing compared with my being made to write a monthly cheque to TSB Bank plc. I think it must be a ploy to get customers to change to direct debit.

ANDREW TEAL
Ripponden,
West Yorkshire

We have ways of making sure you respect English law

HOW MUCH do you know about the law? The answer, of course, is not that much. Nobody knows much about the law. That's the whole point of the law – to be so baffling and mysterious that not even top judges and lawyers know much about it. If small gatherings of law lords can't agree on anything, what chance have we got?

So, starting today, I am going to bring you a series of tests on the state of English law. This is not to teach you about the law, but to point out how very little you do know and to increase your respect for the majesty and unknowability of the law. The first set of test questions is all about animals and the law, and is based on three recent court cases. Here we go.

1) Mr Threlfall of Willesden had a

long-running dispute with his neighbour, Mr Jacobs. The cause of the dispute is immaterial; what matters is the mode of revenge chosen by Mr Jacobs. Knowing that Mr Threlfall disliked dogs, and was even quite scared of the bigger kinds, Mr Jacobs proceeded on a campaign of capturing a series of stray dogs, then putting collars on them and releasing them again. These collars all had one thing in common; they bore a metal tag on which was written a made-up name for the dog and Mr Threlfall's very real name and address. The result was that whenever one of these stray dogs was caught and brought in, it was returned to Mr Threlfall.

The constant stream of unknown dogs being brought to his door was more than he could stand, and he might well have

gone mad had he not suspected that Mr Jacobs was involved in this stray dog campaign.

He soon found a local pet shop which had sold an unexpectedly high quantity of dog collars recently.

"Do you know who bought them?" he asked.

"Yes, a Mr Threlfall," said the pet shop man. "I know that was his name, because he also had a large quantity of tags engraved with his name and address."

"What did this Mr Threlfall look like?" asked Mr Threlfall.

The pet shop man gave an accurate description of Mr Jacobs, and soon Mr Threlfall had instructed his solicitor to lay charges against Mr Jacobs. But with which of the following could Mr Jacobs be charged?

a) Falsely imprisoning a stray dog

b) Cruelty to neighbours
c) Conspiring to give false information to a registered animal shop
d) Falsely entering another

man's address as his own
e) Giving a dog a bad name



MILES KINGTON

The whole point of the law is to be so baffling and mysterious that no one knows much about it

2. Mr Iwan Williams, a small-time Welsh burglar, was caught in his house with the proceeds of a burglary he had committed the night before, including a rare parrot. The parrot was produced in court as evidence, and the owner identified the parrot as his, based on the fact that it could utter several identifiable phrases, including "Rhodri Morgan was cheated".

The defence argued in favour of Mr Williams, the accused burglar, that all evidence in the court had to be given in either Welsh or English, on request, and they therefore demanded that the parrot also parade his vocabulary in Welsh. As the parrot was unable to do this, they claimed a mistrial.

Can an animal be required to give his evidence in Welsh? And can he be sued by Tony Blair for uttering malicious and libellous comments on the election of a Welsh boss figure?

3. Mr Whistler, a Cumberland farmer, was out with his gun one day looking for rabbits when he spotted a fox and shot it. Unfortunately, it was a tame fox belonging to a Mr Kidwelly, who was out for a walk with it; the fox had been trained not to attack sheep or poultry, and to walk off the lead. Mr Kidwelly was determined to sue Mr Whistler for shooting his pet. His solicitor, however, was of the opinion that he would never persuade the court that anyone should assume that a fox was a pet.

"I have an alternative line of thought," he told his client. "I

have inspected the site of the unfortunate shooting and I have noticed that although Mr Whistler was standing on his own land at the time, and the fox was also on his land, he in fact shot across territory belonging to someone else. If we can prove that the bullet passed through air space not belonging to him, I think we can get him on all sorts of gun infringements."

Was there any truth in this? Or was it just the usual sort of hot air talked by lawyers when they're up against it?

I'd like to give you the correct answers to these three. Unfortunately, there is no such thing as a "correct" answer in English law. That's what English law is all about!

If you're beginning to get the idea, we'll have another test paper soon.

JP 11/01/50

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The time has come to show that Nato's threats aren't empty

AFTER A year of warnings from the British and the Americans, it looks as though Nato is finally going to use military force in Kosovo. The anti-war voices raised against the bombing of Baghdad will be horrified, questioning the purpose of air strikes and repeating the conventional wisdom that wars cannot be won from the air. Not that they will be wrong to do so. This is a solemn moment, and it is right that, before the lives of Nato forces are risked, we should hesitate.

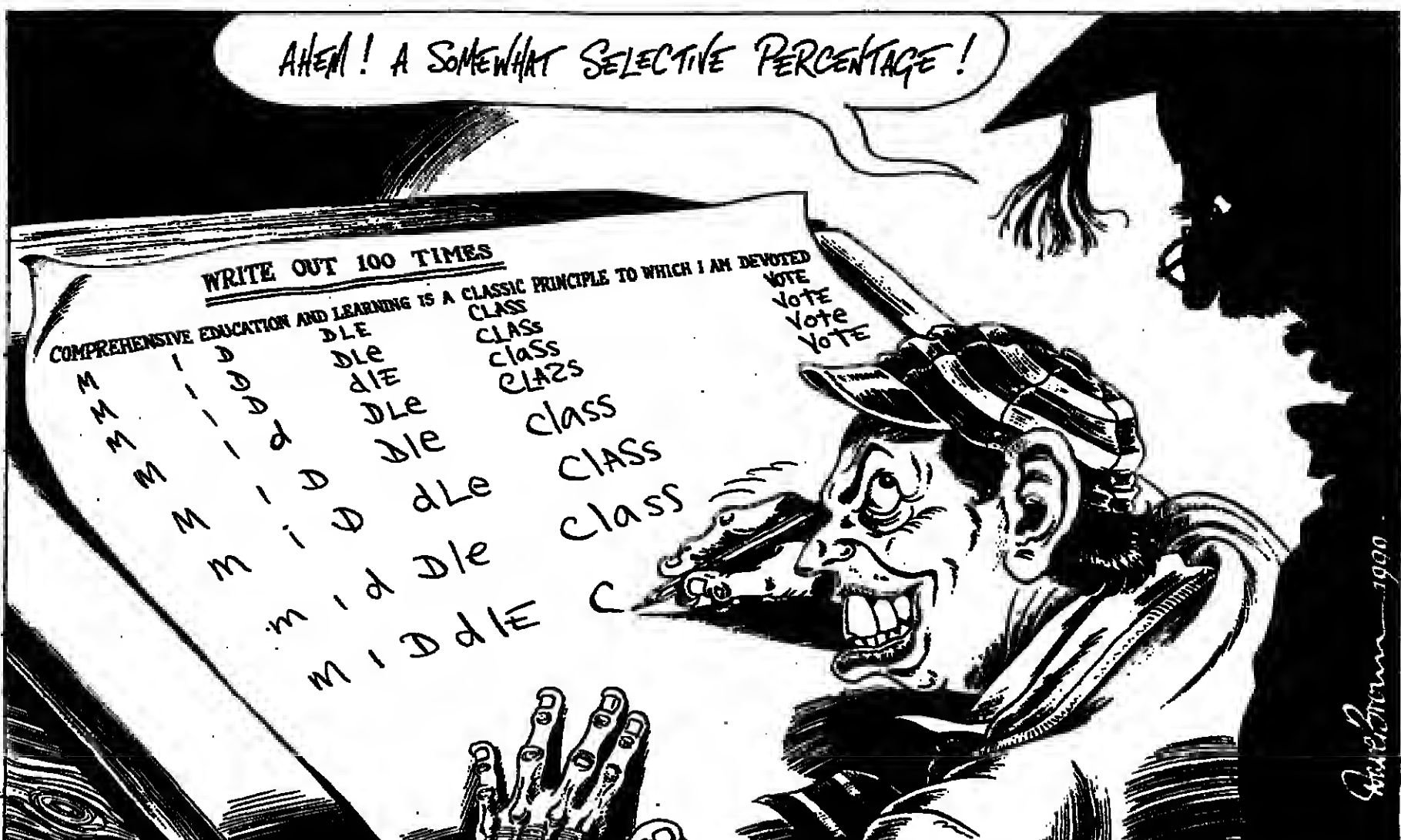
It is alarming that the withdrawal of the Western observers from Kosovo has left the Albanian-speaking majority in the Serbian province at the mercy of the Serbian tanks. It is likely that air strikes on Serbian military targets would kill civilians. And it is certain that, if the West wanted to keep Serbian troops out of Kosovo, which is the only guarantee of the security and freedom of the Kosovo people, it cannot be done from the air. If Slobodan Milosevic, the Serb leader, were to choose to defy the West in Kosovo, the only way to stop him would be to wage a long land war against one of the most aggressive and highly motivated armies in Europe, which is a prospect few in the West have even begun to contemplate.

But what is the alternative? It is obvious that we should not have started from here. It was obvious that the lesson of Bosnia should have been learnt long ago: that the only way to face down the bullies of Belgrade is by the threat of force – and that the threat must be genuine. If Milosevic had been forced to this point a year ago, a series of massacres of Albanian-speaking Kosovars would not have happened, and the Kosovo Liberation Army would not have gained its hold or carried out so many reprisals (and the Serb minority in Kosovo has rights, too).

There are those who would argue that the use of force is better never than late. But they are the people who would have left the Kosovars to their fate, which would have been "ethnic cleansing" and migration. Their argument is similar to those who say that the sanction Saddam Hussein should face for trying to acquire weapons of mass destruction is a telling-off.

In the end, the use of force is justified and necessary. Robin Cook and Tony Blair have since last March told Milosevic that if he does not end the repression in Kosovo, he will face the consequences.

Each time, the Serbs did enough to buy a bit more time, but then wrote their insincerity in the blood of Kosovar farmers. Last July, Mr Cook became annoyed with his Shadow, Michael Howard, for suggesting that Nato's warnings were "empty threats". Now, at last, the time has come to show that they are not empty. It is a grim duty but, as in Iraq, it must be done.



All children need help, not just the most able

THE LATEST scheme from the Downing Street Sunday Headlines Unit is a worthy proposal for the brightest tenth of comprehensive school pupils to be selected for extra tuition in their best subjects. But even from a government whose policy-making processes are exceptionally driven by the need for favourable press coverage in mid-market newspapers, this is thin stuff. You can just imagine Mr and Mrs Range-Rover deciding to send their offspring, who they fondly believe are Oxbridge-bound, to the local state school because, though most of the lessons are rubbish, they will be studying rocket science on Saturdays.

The plan may help a few pupils, who are either highly motivated themselves or whose parents push them, to recognise that extra tuition is the passport to higher

education and its rewards. Many middle-class parents, especially in London, already buy private tuition to top up the education provided by even relatively good schools. But it should not be necessary to add time to an already bulging timetable. This scheme merely tries to make up for the fact that far too much of children's time at school is wasted – a lot of it in trying to follow an over-prescriptive national curriculum.

This Government is, of course, doing much else in its busy flurry of ideas for raising standards. Many of its policies, for taking over management of failing schools and bringing in private companies, are bold, and a welcome advance on the sterility of the previous administration. But it could go even further. In attacking the central problem today's announcement is intended to solve, namely the relative failure of some state schools in urban areas, the Government has not yet matched the laudable urgency of its rhetoric with the zealotry of its actions. In a system that allows parental choice, schools with a poor reputation will

quickly spin down a negative spiral. That spiral needs to be disrupted at the earliest stage by decisive intervention – or closure. Today's scheme will make a small contribution to targeting resources on the schools that need it most, but a bigger overhaul is needed – and one directed at more than just the ablest 10 per cent.

Hell's bells

THE REVEREND Keith Sinclair's decision to take on the combined forces of Mammon, football and BSkyB is praiseworthy indeed. Concerned that the switching of Aston Villa's game with Chelsea might force his flock to choose between God and goals, he organised a protest toll of church bells. Aston Villa pleaded that they were bound by the FA Premiership agreement with Sky. Rev Sinclair may not stand a chance against the powers arrayed against him on this earth, but at least Aston Villa lost.

Mr Portillo should remember his rallying call: 'Who dares, wins'

THERE IS no evidence that William Hague is a vindictive man. But if he were, there would be a sweet means of revenge now open for his humiliation at the hands of Michael Portillo in the former secretary of state for defence's highly watchable and instructive television series last year.

The series included a memorable sequence in which Mr Portillo, his handsome features etched against a darkening Yorkshire skyline, strode across the moors with the Tory leader trotting behind him, clad in a deeply unsuitable canine borrowed, it now turns out, from one of Mr Portillo's camera crew. It was, all the parties now insist, a complete accident. But it rather neatly illustrated the Hague image problem which Mr Portillo, who has turned out to be a dazzlingly talented television presenter, discussed so freely on air with the focus group commissioned by the makers of the programme.

The stratagem is this. Mr Hague could ask Mr Portillo, in the wider interests of the party, to put his name forward as a potential candidate in the Newark by-election. He would have to do it privately, of course. Unlike Labour, the Tories still respect the autonomy of local associations and it is not for the leader to dictate whom they should or should not choose as parliamentary candidates.

But, in the now routine fashion of modern politicians, he could discreetly "let it be known" to a couple of newspapers that this was his desire, putting Mr Portillo, who by all accounts is not interested in trying for the seat, firmly on the spot.

The interesting question of who will be the Tory candidate at Newark – after a freakily long interval of well over a year in which there have been no by-elections at all – should not, of course, distract from the reasons, none of them favourable to the Government, why it is taking place.

First, Fiona Jones, the sitting Labour MP, was found guilty by her peers of what looks like more than a mere technical infringement of election law. Second, however, the application of archaic laws to electoral techniques – including mass telephone canvassing and the use of information technology – that were unknown when the laws were framed, have underlined the need for an Electoral Commission of the sort that has long been promoted by Dr David Butler. Finally, Ms Jones's conviction has exposed the fact that the deeply divided Newark Labour Party is, to put it mildly, in a bit of a mess.

But that's just the point. Although it would require a swing to the Tories of 2.9 per cent to win the seat – at a time when the national opinion polls show Labour at comfortably above the national vote share with which it won its historic landslide on 1 May 1997 – the evident disarray of the Labour Party makes the outcome considerably more unpredictable than it might otherwise be.

This is especially the case since the seat was regarded as a pretty safe Tory one before the general election, and since there are bound to be fears about the scale of Labour turnout in the by-election. What's more, the Labour candidate, almost whoever he



DONALD MACINTYRE

Sooner or later even his many admirers are going to start wondering when he is going to get his hands dirty

or she turns out to be, is bound to suffer from a backlash against the party's role in the events that caused the by-election to happen in the first place. The Tories have more than a sporting chance of winning.

That's not all. Hague could, if he chose, present it to Mr Portillo as his solemn duty to his party to make every effort to get back into Parliament at the earliest possible opportunity.

The shrinking of the Tory party in the last election means that the Shadow Cabinet, let alone the tier of politicians just below it, is not so overburdened with talent and charisma that it can afford to do without one of the party's undoubted stars. Who better, for example, to sharpen the Tory attack on the Government by replacing Michael Howard as Shadow foreign secretary after Mr Howard's

decision to bow out of politics?

That is not, it seems, how Mr Portillo sees it. Mr Portillo is having rather a nice time at the moment: speaking, writing, thinking, appearing on radio and television, rotating selectively and graciously around the Conservative dinner circuit. By his sheer, if conveniently distant, presence he invites favourable comparison with Mr Hague. Portillo is a man who knows that he can have the pick of safe seats in the run-up to the next general election; he is in no hurry at all to get back. He will, by all accounts, go for a by-election unless the seat is rock-solid Conservative. Nor does this apparently mean that he intends to remain in Enfield Southgate, where he was cruelly defeated in 1997 by a tactical squeeze on the Liberal Democrats – even though Enfield is one of those seats that the Tories will have to win back if it is to have any serious chance of recovery. And why should he be in a hurry?

Although he would deny it vigorously, by staying out of Parliament until the next general election he can be sure of not being part of the problem if or when the Tories go down to their second defeat, but, rather, a potential solution. It says something about the state of modern politics that, a few ritual taunts from Labour apart, most people accept this situation, which has everything to do with personal ambition and little to do with improving the fortunes of his party, without batting an eyelid.

And yet it is even as clear as the sophist's claim, that Mr Portillo would be "finished" if he went for

Newark and lost? Roy Jenkins did no damage to himself by failing, in the admittedly rather different circumstances of the Warrington by-election in 1981, to win. Nor is the argument that he might not be able to hang on to the seat in the general election quite the clincher it is made out to be.

By standing in and winning the by-election he would incur a massive debt from the Conservative Party, becoming, the day after, an instant star. To have gambled on Newark would have been a gutsy, risky decision, for which he would have to be rewarded, if necessary, by another seat. Wasn't it Portillo who said in the ill-judged party conference speech which marked an otherwise distinguished term as secretary of state for defence: "Who dares, wins?"

In this respect Portillo is an odd mixture: insouciant enough to make that speech, fatally comparing the Conservative Party to the SAS, or to install telephones in a safe house in premature anticipation of a leadership election in 1995; too cautious to stand in that election or to risk a parliamentary defeat now. Maybe Newark is not the right choice for such a controversial figure, especially if John Stevens's pro-European break-away Tories run. But there will be other by-elections.

If Portillo is too controversial to win a closely fought by-election, then it raises questions about his ability to win a general election as party leader. Sooner or later even some of his many admirers among Tory MPs are going to start wondering when he is prepared to get his hands dirty.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Knowing Eric Morecambe, he will say, 'You're late again!'"
Des O'Connor, entertainer,
on the death of the comedian Ernie Wise

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"I look upon all the world as my parish"
John Wesley,
founder of methodism

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
The Sunday newspapers reflect on recent events in Brussels

When the voices of arrogance and avarice combine with unaccountable power, the violation of an electorate's trust becomes inevitable. Replacing one lot of disgraced commissioners with another bunch of hopefuls will not change that. The critical issue is not who runs the commission, but how it is run.
Sunday Business

THE EUROPEAN Parliament's failure to sort out the corruption of several of its Commissioners is undeniably a blot on its escutcheon. But the Parliament exists and we should exploit not exorcise it, in order to serve ourselves better, and to bring more transparency and accountability to the EU.
The Independent on Sunday

The events of last week offer a golden opportunity to rebalance Europe's institutions.

If Tony Blair wants to persuade voters that joining the single currency is safe, surely simultaneous action to rein in the Commission's free-ranging powers to interfere in other aspects of our lives is a sensible course. It will be a lonely battle, but so was Mrs Thatcher's in winning our budget rebate. (Charles Powell)
The Sunday Telegraph

FROM THE shambles of the European Union shines a small light of hope: Britain's insistence on the appointment of an outside fraudbuster. Making the independent watchdog a must for the next President of the Commission is a great move forward.
News of the World

IT HAS been said, in as many languages as there are in the European Union, that Europe is at a crossroads. If only it were

that simple. Europe is at a roundabout around which it will spin while the passengers squabble about which direction to take. (Andrew Roamsley)
The Observer

THE ABRUPT departure of 20 commissioners has been a source of joy for many Eurosceptics, but should not delude the Continent's overburdened taxpayers into believing that a chastened Brussels will rush to clean up its act.

PANDORA

THE SUNDAY Times is the Sunday papers? No. The Sunday Times is last Sunday's papers. "Eye surgery lifts Salman Rushdie's brooding looks" screamed the rag's page one, above-the-fold story this week. Pandoraphiles experiencing déjà vu are right on the money - you read the story here 10 days ago. It's a sign of how grim life is becoming at Wapping; no wonder the Sunday Times's editor, John Witherow has been reduced to public admissions that his rag "isn't making waves any more".

For the Wapping barn, the only way is down, as management there becomes increasingly adrift from life as the rest of us understand it. Example: The Times's editor Peter Stothard deigned to give an enterprising Cambridge undergrad, Sam Coates, a valuable tip for readers of the collegiate magazine Varsity: "Well I wouldn't bother with work experience; I'd spend the summer reading Ovid." Welcome to the 19th century, guys.

IT ISN'T just Auntie and Ikea who prefer clean-shaven staff: the parcel delivery outfit UPS forbids beards, too.

TRUDIE STYLER's husband Sting took a break from recording his new album in Florence to join a stellar on-stage cast performing the best bits of the Bard at the Globe theatre this weekend. Ethan Hawke left Uma Thurman and their baby to fly in from New York and join the iconic Vanessa Redgrave, the omnipresent Richard E. Grant, the deadpan comedian Jack Dee and the lachrymose folkie James Taylor to tread the boards before a full house. But it was the Lock Stock and One Smoking Crisp Packet old boys who stole the show with their Romeo and Juliet fight scene. As Tybalt (the former Big Issue seller Jason Statham), boyfriend of the Big B, left Kelly Brock died, he stage-whispered the word "Bastard". "He's all emotional," explained Romeo Vinnie Jones, (pictured) to the crowd. Diamond fridges!

STYLER, A self-confessed bossy-boots and producer of the Lock Stock film, organised the Globe gig to raise some £240,000 for Shi-Wa, is London's new Tibetan Peace Garden, scheduled to be opened this summer (surprise!) the

Imperial War Museum by the Dalai Lama. There was only one hitch - Styler had planned overnight accommodation for her performers in the Highgate demesne she shares with Sting. But she was embarrassed by the volume of talent that appeared on the night. And with her house still occupied by Pierce Brosnan, who's renting it for the duration of the Bond shoot, Anouska Hempel had to step in to save Styler's blushes. Hempel generously put everyone up overnight at her eponymous, and very smart, Paddington hotel. Peaceful gardens are important to the Australian-born socialite; local residents objected to her attempted annexation of Craven Hill Gardens when she first opened the hotel.

THE EU Commissioners' learning act presents a wonderful opportunity for Euroland to eliminate the anomaly of the fat cats' duty-free allowance. The old mob enjoyed 20,000 duty-free cigarettes per year (1,000 packs of 20); the booze exemption runs to a crotchetic 530 bottles of wine and 120 bottles of spirits annually. Perhaps following the same rules as the rest of us might clear Commissioners' heads on the duty free issue - especially the one belonging to the Danish prissypants Ritt Bjerregaard.

THIS JUST in from Madvertising Avenue: Löwenbrun has sanctioned a £1m advertising campaign that pokes fun at the Germans' national lack of humour. Its first poster says: "Was Mozart a cross-dresser? Who cares?" Not the clever boys and girls at the ad agency Edge, apparently - London resident Wolfgang Amadeus wasn't German but Austrian. Still, Löwenbrun's boss suits are sure to see the funny side. Aren't they?

CAN THIS be true? Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston are rumoured to be getting married this week in London.

SO CHERIE Blair likes the music of Sir Cliff Richard. Devil Woman? It's plausible - the Christian Socialist Movement's phone number is the positively beastly 0171-833 0666.

Contact Pandora by e-mail: pandora@independent.co.uk

A question for the Prime Minister



ANDREW MACKINLAY

The Government control freaks are winning and the rights of backbenchers are under threat

I ASKED Tony Blair at Prime Minister's Question Time last June for an assurance that he would distinguish his period in office by discouraging "fawning, obsequious, softball, well-rehearsed and planted questions" and ensure that loyal Labour Party backbenchers can provide scrutiny and accountability "without fear or favour and without showing partiality or affection".

Nine months on, the answer is becoming all too glaringly obvious. The control freak tendencies within the Government are winning and the rights of backbenchers are under threat. I did not know, when I put that question, that as I did so, select committee reports were being leaked to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Robin Cook.

The latest evidence that ministers are in a position to influence the committees came only last week when Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, admitted that his Parliamentary private secretary had received a leaked Select Committee report about the taxing of child benefit.

Answering my question, Mr Blair said he respected my "independence of mind and I shall do my very best to ensure that he retains it".

The Prime Minister has sought to blur two quite distinct, and not necessarily conflicting, obligations of Labour backbenchers. Of course, we are there to argue for, and advance the implementation of, our manifesto. But manifestos are short on detail and we have a duty to ensure that the crafting of the legislation, or the executive action taken

by ministers, is within the party's policy pronouncements and our own Socialist aims and objectives.

Second, the Prime Minister chose to ignore the constitutional duty of MPs not on the payroll to help in providing the most rigorous scrutiny and accountability. This is part of Parliament's historic role of voting supply to the Crown, which is now done, at best, superficially.

Constituency activists rightly expect me to support the Government in the lobbies, and I do. But they also expect me to criticise and cajole, encourage and enthuse the Government in fulfilling our aims and aspirations, to make the executive accountable - the principle that is the cornerstone of our democracy.

If Tony Blair has to be reminded of the need for the executive to remain accountable, he should look no further than the favouritism and cronyism of the Commissioners who brought the whole Brussels show into disrepute last week. Without checks and balances - and the freedom of elected MPs to criticise - Westminster, too, will become a breeding ground for the abuses of power that contributed to the

downfall of the Major government.

Activists are dismayed by control-freakery. They do not understand why it is necessary for ministers' aides to create a new industry of planted questions and rehearsed supplementary questions. That is what has happened. Every day Parliamentary private secretaries canvass pre-typed questions around MPs, asking them to lob them into the daily ballot for ministerial questions to be answered two weeks later. It's as rehearsed as *Have I Got News for You*.

This diminishes the chances of those MPs who have taken the trouble to be the authors of their own questions from succeeding in the ballot. Partly as a consequence of this choreography, the opportunities for true scrutiny are now shifting - increasingly - to the select committees. They have become even more relevant as, inexorably, government has demonstrated a rapacious appetite for rushing through legislation, minimising debate, and arbitrarily using executive powers.

There is a presumption that in British politics "promotion" means becoming a minister. I hope we can

create a culture in which it is seen that younger MPs aspiring to advancement might, instead of becoming chairs of Select Committees, There is a need to provide additional resources for the Select Committees so they can match the government departments and public bodies that they are charged with overseeing.

The Select Committee system needs reinforcing, not undermining, by ministers. All evidence should be under oath - like the US Congressional committees - and it should be seen as a serious offence to noble witnesses or members of the committees. They should also vet appointments such as the Monetary Committee of the Bank of England; the head of the new Strategic Rail Authority and the chairman of the new Countryside Agency. Each committee should have a powerful commissioner, comparable to the Comptroller and Auditor General, to help root out the facts. This is how Mr Blair should now answer the question I put to him in June.

The author is the Labour MP for Thurrock

The rise of 'bedroom culture' spells trouble for our children



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

Children are not willing prisoners in their homes; they say watching TV is what they do when bored

THE CABINET could profitably spend an entire meeting discussing the findings of a research project by the London School of Economics, published last week: "Children, Young People and the Changing Media Environment". First to speak should be the Home Secretary. He would perceive that parents' fears that their children could be the victims of crime or become involved with illegal drugs have significantly affected the way they are brought up.

About a third of the parents who were questioned said that their children spend "very little" or "none" of their time outside the home or garden without adults around. Most parents are more restrictive than they remember from their own youth.

These secondary effects of crime are rarely measured but can outweigh the more obvious results. Society always adjusts. Because parents no longer feel that they can let their children play in the street or run off to friends on their own, they spend a surprisingly high proportion of their income on providing media hardware for the home - television sets, videos, games machines, music equipment and PCs - often buying two of each in order to turn their children's rooms into media laboratories. At least the cooped-up young, they sigh, will have something to do. Indeed they do; they spend some five hours a day watching TV or video, listening to music, playing computer games, using the PC or reading.

At this point, the Prime Minister should turn to Mr Prescott. For there is a second reason why children spend so much of their free time at home. They cannot find affordable and accessible meeting places. They complain about a lack of cafes, parks, swimming-pools, cinemas, skating-rinks and youth clubs.

Nowhere else in Europe are young people so dissatisfied with what is available. I am not saying that Mr Prescott can easily make good this lack of facilities. But part of it is explained by planning rules and regulations and part by the inability of local authorities to meet local needs. Both are his responsibility.

The tragedy which everyone round the cabinet table should contemplate is this. Our children are not willing prisoners in their homes, with parents as more or less kindly gaolers. When the researchers asked children and young people what would comprise "a really good day", they replied: going out to the cinema, going to see friends, or playing sport. In contrast, watching television is widely seen as what you do when you are bored and have nothing better to get on with.

Yet six- to 17-year-olds spend on average two-and-a-half hours almost every day in front of the television screen, to a large extent just filling in time.

Next to participate should be David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education. What does he make of the report's assertion that a print or reading culture as such does not exist among young people? I shall try to reply for him.

First, it is questionable whether many young people have ever done much reading. In the Fifties, before TV became a mass medium, American research showed that children read on average for 15 minutes a day. The London School of Economics study finds exactly the same figure. In fact, reading for pleasure declines with age. About two-thirds of primary school children read books for fewer than 45 minutes a day on four days a week, especially at bedtime. Thereafter there is a fall-off until, aged 15 to 17, only 45 per cent do so.

Second, history shows that new media hardly ever replace older media. The cinema did not extinguish the theatre. Television did not put radio out of business. Instead, new media add to the available options.

Third, still speaking for Mr Blunkett, I would say that Marshall McLuhan's famous aphorism - the medium is the message - is wrong. What matters is the message; the means of delivery is, in the final analysis, unimportant. Increasingly in education, the screen will supplement but not supplant the printed word, as it does in work and in leisure. Literacy nowadays is an ability to handle and learn from all media - from websites to classical text. There isn't book knowledge as opposed to, say, TV learning or what the Internet teaches. Knowledge is knowledge, regardless of its origin.

The report also has implications for another minister, Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. For it confirms beyond doubt that in many homes, children



Do too many children have computers in their bedrooms?

and young people are watching television, unsupervised, well beyond 9pm. Yet television scheduling, and with it regulation, is based on the notion of a 9pm watershed.

The report shows what parents with young families reading this newspaper know very well: from around nine years old, children's bedrooms become a centre of private activity. Overall, 72 per cent have their own rooms and need not share with a sibling. And what do you find when you look in? Some 63 per cent have their own television set and 21 per cent have a video recorder. Of course, with the door shut and their parents elsewhere, even many six- to eight-year-olds admit that they often watch TV after 9pm.

In truth, bedtime is "bedroom" time, the end of the family day but not the start of sleep. Safe in their bedrooms, many young teenagers are watching the box up to 11pm.

Yet the report finds that parents are ambivalent. They "do not worry overmuch about their children's media use". Drugs, the impact of crime and poor job prospects are of

greater concern. Nonetheless, parents strongly wish to be able to rely upon the good judgement of broadcasters and media regulators.

In the light of these findings, Mr Smith will have to examine the watershed afresh. The questions are whether it should be moved later and whether new rules regarding the type of material that follows immediately after it need to be devised. Bolder still would be to analyse the role of consumer advice to see whether it could be made more conveniently available. Prohibition is a difficult policy.

Of course, I have been engaging in wishful thinking. It is said that the Cabinet rarely has sustained discussions of policy matters. Everything is decided in committees and the results are merely reported to the full meeting.

Yet New Labour also believes in something called "joined-up" government. Very well then. Let the Cabinet have a joined-up discussion about the development of "bedroom culture" and what it means for trends in our society.

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An unhealthy obsession with sex

WE NEED a society that first, protects and promotes marriage and the family; second, ceases to be so obsessed with sex, curbs pornography and puts sexual intimacy back into its proper place in marriage; and third, respects human life from conception to its natural end and thus abolishes abortion.

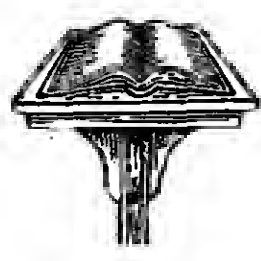
The idea of marriage as a permanent lifelong commitment is often regarded as unrealistic, and even undesirable because it limits future choices. And the notion of confining sexual relationships to marriage is seen by many as an unattainable fantasy. The link between life and love is broken. It is almost taken for granted that there need be no connection at all between the unitive and the procreative aspects of sexual intimacy.

Our society is faced with competing visions of what makes for human fulfilment and happiness. We have elevated freedom of choice to the seeming exclusion of other values. In the endless obsession with sex in so much of the media we see the peddling of unreal fantasies about what makes for human happiness.

The advancement of the "pro-life" cause regarding abortion is, I believe, not unlike the battle over slavery in the 19th century. There are powerful social, cultural, and economic forces opposing change. Gradually, however, the battle for hearts and minds will be won. And that is because, as with the right of the slave to freedom, the right of the unborn child to life is in the end absolute and unanswerable.

The need to respect human life from its conception to its natural end is an imperative of any civilised society. Besides the question of abortion there is also the real threat of euthanasia.

I want to raise a different issue now, though. It is one that is already rushing towards us. Our society as a whole is ill-prepared to meet it. The Church is ill-prepared to tackle it. We have already seen how the contraceptive mentality has distorted our society's understanding of the purpose and place of sex. In the future the impact of genetic technology could have a far more profound and devastating impact on our understanding of the nature of human life itself.



PODIUM
CARDINAL HUME
From a speech by the head of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales to a Life conference

There is no doubt that recent advances in understanding the genetic basis of many diseases hold out the long-term prospect of therapeutic interventions at an early stage, aimed at treating the individual affected. It is said to be some years before such treatment could be a practical reality, but we are continually being surprised by the pace of science and technology. What is already a reality,

however, is the selective abortion of foetuses. There are many stories of women who have felt under pressure to have antenatal tests for Down's syndrome, for instance, and to abort if the test is positive.

Given the astonishing rate at which the Human Genome is being mapped, I understand that it is not long before it will be possible for scientists to detect many more genetic predispositions.

If such tests become widely available, and widely used, what will be the consequences? Will not individual parents start to demand the right to choose, perhaps with the wider use of IVF technology, and to discard embryos that do not meet their requirements? It is a profoundly human instinct for parents to want the best for their children, for them to have as great a chance of succeeding in life as possible. But we seem to be on the verge of the possibility of parents choosing what they regard as the best children to have.

What this could unleash is the spectre of eugenics. It is not the state-sponsored kind that has haunted this century, from

which we know that human beings are capable of using the latest scientific advances to pursue a state-sponsored eugenic policy of a horrific kind. Rather, what could now emerge is a privatised form of eugenics in which individual parents choose which children to have, and which to abort.

What if such choices are available only to the rich? And if they are available to all, how will those who choose not to abort children suffering from genetic diseases be regarded? Will society be prepared to pay the health care costs if such a child could have been aborted? How will such children see themselves? These are just some of the many questions that arise, quite apart from abortion.

The interest of society as a whole demands that we do all we can to foster a society in which every child is a wanted child, in which family life is protected and supported, in which sexual intimacy is revered as the point at which life and love meet, and in which each and every human life, from the moment of conception, is respected and protected.

JP 11/20/99

Ernie Wise

FOR 40 years, Ernie Wise was half of the greatest comedy double act in the history of British television. Morecambe and Wise. Wise, the smaller in stature (a disparity in height being the feature of all the finest comedy duos), was the butt of Eric Morecambe's jokes, referred to as the one with the "short, fat, hairy legs", and teased about his non-existent toupee with the words "You can't see the join".

It was Wise who opened each show with the greeting, "Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the show", and revelled in boasting of "a play wot I wrote", while Morecambe proceeded to sabotage such literary efforts, determined to knock his supposedly pompous partner down a peg or two. "What do you think of it so far?" Morecambe would ask, replying himself, "Rubbish!"

Morecambe and Wise's Christmas shows were consistently ratings-toppers, with audiences of as many as 28 million, and stars queued up to appear on screen with the pair, often only to be sent up. Glenda Jackson performed with Morecambe in a pastiche of a Fred Astaire/Ginger Rogers dance routine that finished with the Oscar-winning actress vanishing over the top of a staircase that led nowhere. The newsreader Angela Ripston danced deftly across the screen in an evening dress split to the thigh. The conductor André Previn leapt into the air while conducting his symphony orchestra so that Morecambe, playing a Greg piano concerto rather amateurishly, could see him over the piano lid. Even the former prime minister Harold Wilson appeared in one sketch.

The list of personalities who joined Morecambe and Wise on screen down the years read like a roll-call of Britain's finest actors and entertainers. The joke was that Wise would grovel to these luminaries while Morecambe treated them with contempt and consistently forgot their names.

Morecambe and Wise had originally modelled their cross-talk act, combining quickfire gags with visual jokes, on the film giants Abbott and Costello and the more short-lived but hugely popular Wheeler and Woolsey - to whom they bore a remarkable physical resemblance - but their brilliant timing later caused critics to liken them to Laurel and Hardy. In their act, crafted in music halls and variety theatres, Wise was the straight man, on the receiving end of Morecambe's buffoonery and insults, although this one-sidedness gradually changed as greater subtlety and characterisation took over.

The partnership ended only with Morecambe's death in 1984, which left Wise with the task of rebuilding his career. Although he never reached the same heights as he had

with his bespectacled partner, he branched out to work as both a West End stage actor and television game-show panellist.

He was born Ernest Wiseman in Leeds in 1925, and had his first taste of show business at the age of seven performing in northern working men's clubs alongside his father, a railway porter. In the amateur double act Carson and Kid, later known as Bert Carson and His Little Wonder and, at times, The Two Tedleys, after the local beer. It was a songs-and-gags act but also included the younger performing a high-speed clog dance. "The faster I danced, the faster the crowds threw money," he later recalled.

He made his professional debut in January 1939 in the band-leader-turned-impresario Jack Hylton's stage production of the popular BBC radio programme *Band Waggon*, alongside Arthur Askey and Richard Murdoch, at the Prince's Theatre, London, after being audi-

Sid Field, at the Prince of Wales Theatre in London, although they were only understudies in that and performed their double act just twice. However, they gained good broadcasting experience by landing regular work in the BBC radio series *Youth Must Have Its Fling*.

Then both went their separate ways to do National Service. Wise joined the Merchant Navy and Morecambe - after working for a short time with the comedian Gus Morris - becoming a Bevin Boy down the coalmines, only to be discharged after 11 months with a weak heart.

In 1947, the two met again by chance, when Morecambe joined Lord George Sanger's Circus and Variety Show as feed to the resident comic, who turned out to be Wise. Standing in the centre of the circus ring, wearing dinner suits and gumboots, they would sometimes perform with not a soul in the audience. After the show folded, they eventually found an agent who booked them for

lished them as major stars. It was during this series that they adopted a Johnny Mercer number, "Two of a Kind", as one of their theme tunes. Later, "Bring Me Sunshine" was to become their trademark song, played at the end of the show as they exited with a hornpipe-style dance, hands behind backs.

Their venture into feature films, with three comedy-thrillers - starting in 1956 with *The Intelligence Men*, followed by *That Riviera Touch* and *The Magnificent Two* in each of the following years - was less successful. The Morecambe and Wise humour was never successfully translated to film, with storylines that were far removed from their usual patter and a method of shooting that did not suit their off-the-cuff style, but lack of success in this medium did nothing to abate their small-screen popularity. They even travelled to America to appear regularly on *The Ed Sullivan Show* and had their own series, *Piccadilly Palace*, made in Britain by Lew Grade for screening in the United States.

The ITV show finished in 1968, when Eric Morecambe suffered a heart attack, but he recovered and *The Morecambe and Wise Show* switched channels, with Eddie Braben replacing Dick Hills and Sid Green as scriptwriter a year later after work lured the original writers to America. The duo's 10 years at the BBC proved to be their most popular. The series was a ratings topper and the annual *Morecambe and Wise Christmas Show* became an institution. The sight of Morecambe wearing glasses on the side of his head and slapping Wise across the face was a guaranteed audience-puller and ended some of the biggest stars to join them in front of the cameras during this time - so it was a blow to the BBC when the pair returned to ITV with their show in 1978.

They were lured back by Thames Television with the promise of more money and a chance to appear in films but, with a change of scriptwriters, *The Morecambe and Wise Show* never reached the heights it had done and only one television film was made, the poorly received *Night Train to Murder* (1984). The BBC cashed in by repeating old programmes under the title *Morecambe and Wise at the BBC* and repackaging them into 70 half-hour shows for screening in America. The move to ITV also saw Morecambe and Wise making a guest appearance in *The Sweeney* (1978), with Regan and Carter conducting an investigation at a club where the pair were supposedly performing in cabaret.

A year later, Morecambe suffered his second heart attack and had to undergo open-heart surgery. Then, in 1984, after finishing a real-life stage show, at the Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury, in Gloucestershire, he died of another attack.



Wise, right, and Morecambe. They were initially billed as Morecambe and Wisdom

tershire, he died of another attack. His death, at the age of 58, signalled the end of British television's best-loved comedy duo, who had appeared in five Royal Variety Performances.

Picking up the pieces of his career, Wise had the difficult task of being the straight man who had to find new vehicles for his talents. He performed in cabaret in Australia in 1986, played the chairman, William Cartwright, in the London West End musical version of the unfinished Dickens novel *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Savoy Theatre, 1987), which ran for only 10 weeks, and Det Sgt Porterhouse in the farce *Run for Your Wife* (Criterion Theatre, 1988) and was on television as a regular

panellist in *What's My Line?*, as well as appearing in three Telethons in New Zealand and one in Australia. He acted in the American television comedy series *Too Close for Comfort* (1985) and, back in Britain, presented *The Morecambe and Wise Classics*, featuring some of the duo's finest performances from their BBC shows.

Wise was also the subject of *This is Your Life* (1991) and a 40 Minutes programme subtitled *The Importance of Being Ernie* (1993), which charted the problems of facing up to life as a solo performer after years of endearing himself to the nation as half of a double act. "We were ordained for each other," he said. "I wouldn't have teamed up

with anybody else, only Eric. It was like a marriage."

Morecambe and Wise wrote two autobiographies together, *Eric and Ernie* (1973) and *There's No Answer to That!* (1981), as well as several other books based on their television shows, including *The Best of Morecambe and Wise* (1974) and *Morecambe and Wise: Special* (1974). Wise later wrote his own autobiography, *Still on My Way to Hollywood* (1990).

ANTHONY HAYWARD

Ernest Wiseman (Ernie Wise), comedian and actor: born Leeds 27 November 1925; OBE 1976; married 1953 Doreen Blyth; died Wexham, Buckinghamshire 21 March 1999.

Alfred Schlee

ALFRED SCHLEE was one of the most important and least prominent arbiters of taste in 20th-century music. The enthusiasts of the conductors and pundits fill the headlines; Schlee, head of the Vienna-based music publishers Universal Edition for 40 years, was more concerned with filling his catalogue, and he chose his composers with an impeccable ear for their likely development.

The list of Universal composers testifies to the acuity of his judgement: it bristles with names like Berio, Birtwistle, Kagel, Messiaen, Pärt, Rihm, Schwertsik and Shchedrin. The basis of his success was his unflinching intellectual curiosity - Pierre Boulez, one of the modernist jewels in the Universal crown, said of Schlee: "He always has his nose in the wind."

Schlee was born in Dresden in 1901, studying piano, cello and music theory at school before moving on to Munich University to take courses in musicology with Adolf Sand-



Schlee: 'A nose in the wind'

berger and composition with August Reuss. Schlee was already showing a deep interest in modern art: he was in close contact with the Bauhaus circle in Dessau and the architect Oskar Schlemmer, and in 1925 he got

to know the conductor Erich Kleiber, then busy preparing for the premiere of Alban Berg's opera *Wozzeck*.

Schlee had intended to go on to a PhD in Vienna, but the combination of two factors - his father's sudden illness and the hyper-inflation that was then beginning to bite - put further study beyond his financial means. He took to the keyboard and the pen, acting as accompanist to the singers Mary Wigman and Yvonne Georgi and writing ballet criticism. In 1924 he took up a post as Dramaturg at the Stadttheater in Münster, where he also worked as répétiteur. It was now that he first came into contact with Universal Edition (which, founded in 1901, was exactly the same age as he was); among the jobs he was given was the editing of a special number of *Anbruch*, the periodical of Vienna's musical avant-garde. In 1927 Hans Heinsheimer, the visionary head of the operatic section of Universal Edi-

tion, offered Schlee a job. Universal became his life - and he saved it.

His first important job was as Universal's representative in Berlin, where the Nazis' cultural policies were putting large sections of the Universal catalogue out of bounds: Arnold Schönberg and Alban Berg were both Jewish; so, too, were Gustav Mahler, Darius Milhaud, Ernst Krenek, Karol Rathaus and many others; and Anton von Webern, though an enthusiastic national socialist, also wrote "degenerate" music. For the Nazis, indeed, Universal was a "Jewish publisher". Schlee watched the exodus of his friends with a heavy heart, bolstered by his conviction that Hitler's regime couldn't last.

Schlee returned to Vienna in 1933, and his finest hour began, as Germany's swallowing of Austria was repeated in music-publishing microcosm. With the weight of Hermann Goering behind them, the

German publishers Schott bought up Universal; the prize was passed to another firm, Peters, when it was decided that Schott wasn't reliable either. Schlee decided he would have to act if Universal was to survive.

With the help of some of the more humane officials in charge of Vienna, Schlee set about preserving the Universal catalogue. The mayor of Vienna was, of course, a Nazi, but he was also an Austrian nationalist, and Schlee saw that he would be useful in preventing the wholesale loss of Universal to Germany. Highly placed helpers made sure the Gestapo were kept off Schlee's back - they called on Universal only once, confiscating music by Kurt Weill and Franz Schreker.

But Schlee saw the danger and immediately began removing scores and instrumental parts to safe havens, often in semi-official transport, on the grounds that the material had to be protected from bombing. Works

of Schönberg and Weill were hidden behind organs in country churches; Schlee's own house in Semmering was used to secrete scores; and until the war Schlee did what he could to export his forbidden music, correctly reckoning that the Nazis were even more interested in gaining foreign currency than in suppressing Jewish composers.

After the war, and with Universal re-established as an Austrian, not a German, business, Schlee now began to expand the company. He had already contracted Rolf Liebermann and Frank Martin to Universal, with a view to publishing them "when that Hitler is out of the way". Gottfried von Einem, whose mother had been instrumental in safeguarding condemned music, became a Universal composer; so, too, did Luigi Dallapiccola, Bohuslav Martinů and Mario Peragallo.

Schlee enthusiastically embraced the avant-garde, bringing into his

fold Karlheinz Stockhausen, Roman Haubenstock-Ramati, Mauricio Kagel, Friedrich Cerha, Sylvano Bussotti and others, and extended his helping hand to Eastern bloc composers - György Kurtág, György Ligeti, Edison Denisov, Alfred Schnittke - being given the official cold shoulder by the Communists who had taken over their homelands.

Schlee was an intensely private man. Pierre Boulez, who knew him for nearly 50 years, confessed, "If you want to know something about him, you have to ask someone else." That privacy was maintained even in death: Schlee's funeral was over and done with before the world knew he had gone.

MARTIN ANDERSON

Alfred Schlee, music publisher: born Dresden, Germany 19 November 1901; married 1960 Margarethe Molner (two sons); died Vienna 16 February 1999.

Sir Giles Loder Bt

FOR MOST of this century the Loder family has been synonymous with West Sussex gardening. Members of its various branches have owned tremendous gardens at Leonardslee near Horsham, High Beeches near Handcross and Wakehurst near Haywards Heath. While all three survive and flourish, only Leonardslee remains in the family's ownership, due largely to the commitment and sensible management of Sir Giles Loder.

The names Loder and Leonardslee are familiar to gardeners all over the world who may never have been near the garden to which Loder devoted much of his life; for both are attached to several varieties of rhododendron. One, Leonardslee Giles, was specifically named for the baronet who inherited the estate when he was only five, kept it going

during the testing middle years of the century and continued the work on rhododendrons that his grandfather Sir Edmund Loder, the second baronet, had pioneered.

To grow rhododendrons successfully you need a large woodland garden on acid soil. To create such a garden is one kind of achievement; to sustain and embellish it in adverse economic conditions is another, requiring immense reserves of patience and dedication.

Giles Loder had those qualities in abundance. Born at the beginning of the First World War, he scarcely knew his father, Captain Robert Loder, Sir Edmund's eldest son, who was killed in action. The baronetcy passed directly to Giles when Sir Edmund died in 1920.

While he was at Eton and Trin-

ity College, Cambridge, in the inter-war years, his mother Muriel ran the estate. His lifelong fascination with machines led him to take an Engineering degree at Cambridge, where he also became interested in sailing and boat design. When the Second World War broke out he was first commissioned in the Surrey and Sussex Yeomanry but was moved to the Vospers shipyards to work on the technical and design aspects of new vessels for the Royal Navy.

A few months before the war he had married Marie Symons-Jeune, the daughter of Captain Bertram Symons-Jeune, a 1908 garden designer best known for his work on naturalistic rockeries. Her inherited expertise and interest in horticulture made her an invaluable partner when, returning from the

war, he devoted himself full-time to running the garden and the estate. Loder never lost his interest in sailing and owned several boats, continuing as an active yachtsman until he was obliged to give it up at 65.

Family holidays with their two sons would often involve navigating the waterways of Europe. A member of the elite Royal Yacht Squadron, he was a regular at the Cowes regatta, where he sometimes skipped the 12-metre yacht *Kajlena*, belonging to a friend.

At Leonardslee, Giles and Marie Loder decided to enhance the plantings of rhododendrons and magnolias by introducing hundreds of new varieties of camellias, which they especially enjoyed. They built two large greenhouses so that they could extend the range to tender va-

rieties. Both sat on many RHS committees and were holders of the Victoria Medal of Honour, the highest accolade of the RHS.

His was a tremendous presence in the circle of knowledgeable enthusiasts drawn to rhododendrons and in 1997 he had the odd distinction of winning the society's Loder Cup for his work on the shrub - an award instituted by one of the Wakehurst Lodgers. He also won prizes for his pedigree Red Poll and Dexter cattle.

Leonardslee was created by Sir Edmund Loder in the 1890s in a lovely valley embracing a series of terraced ponds used in iron smelting in the 16th and 17th centuries, when that was the area's principal industry. Although essentially a late spring garden it is popular throughout the summer months, when vis-

itors enjoy looking out for the wallabies who live in the valley and help keep the grass trimmed.

When, in 1981, Giles and Marie Loder moved to Cuckfield, they handed over the estate to their younger son, Robin, because his elder brother, Edmund, was more interested in training and breeding racehorses. The family tradition is being maintained by Robin's son Christopher, who runs a nursery on the estate.

Giles Loder took a keen interest in birdwatching. He and his wife would go on ambitious journeys to the Amazon or the Antarctic to look at the wild life. They were on one such trip in October 1987 when a hurricane tore through the south-east of England and did so much damage to Leonardslee and other gardens.

MICHAEL LEAPMAN



Loder: rhododendron growing

Giles Rolls Loder, gardener: born London 10 November 1914; succeeded 1930 as third Bt; married 1939 Marie Symons-Jeune (two sons); died Haywards Heath, West Sussex 24 February 1999.

Wendy Boase

WENDY BOASE, founding editor of Walker Books, epitomised all that is best in an editor: she cared passionately about her authors and her books, she cared about the words and the pictures, she cared about every detail of a book's production. Such editors are rare.

She was born in Melbourne and had what she described as a "typically out-of-doors Australian upbringing". Much of her time was spent helping her mother run a country store which sold "everything from bras to bathing caps." An avid reader from the start, she discovered the world of Australian children's classics and never lost her fondness for such seminal titles as May Gibbs's *Snugglypot and Cuddlepup* (1918) and *The Magic Pudding* by Norman Lindsay (1918). Good storytelling was important to her; she valued and appreciated the quality it could bring into a child's life.

Her schooling was somewhat indifferent but she went on to Sydney University to study Anglo-Saxon and Middle English. A two-year period of teaching in a private school followed her graduation, but then, like so many young Australians of her generation, she set off in 1968 for the almost obligatory "year in the U.S." - a year which turned into a lifetime. In London she taught for a while, then took off to travel round Europe and North America.

Returning to London, Boase enjoyed a brief and unlikely spell as a croupier in a gambling club before taking her first publishing job at *Reader's Digest*, where she was a reluctant secretary until she was promoted to the research department. From there she went to Marshall Cavendish, the book packager. There she met the charismatic Sebastian Walker and the art director Amelia Edwards.

When Walker began his publishing adventure Walker Books, in 1978, he invited Boase to join him "to look after the words". Walker, Boase, and Edwards together set up the fledgling company in the spare bedroom of Walker's Islington home and from this modest start grew a children's book publishing company which is now one of the most innovative, successful and admired in the world. After Walker's premature death in 1991 the company took on a more structured framework and Boase

joined the new board, becoming Editorial Director.

Boase's life was Walker Books. She had vast energy, a huge capacity for work and a fiercely protective attitude towards her authors and artists. She also had a finely tuned feeling for good writing, picking out from the never-ending piles of unsolicited manuscripts such talented writers as Hugh Scott, whose novel *Why Weeps the Broom?* won the Whitbread Award in 1989, and Lesley Howarth, who won the Guardian Fiction Award in 1995 with *Map Head*.

She was especially proud of the *Maisy* books by Lucy Cousins, and when the first dummies of these little books arrived in the Walker office Boase ran round to everyone enthusiastically hailing a potential bestseller. She was

'Nothing but the rarest kind of best is good enough for children,' wrote Walter de la Mare. Wendy Boase lived that ideal



Boase's life was Walker Books, which she joined when it began in 1978

right; 10 titles have followed the original *Maisy Goes to Bed* (1990), with several more to be published this autumn, including *Maisy's Mix-and-Match Mousewear*. The books have become world-wide favourites, published in 16 languages. One of Boase's last great coups was the development of a forthcoming television series featuring *Maisy*.

Boase was an influential figure in the groundbreaking deal Walker struck with Sainsbury, the subsequent marketing in Sainsbury stores of high-quality, low-cost children's books, produced by Walker, was one of the most significant developments in children's publishing since the Second World War.

But it was fiction which was Boase's particular love and over 10 years she

built the Walker fiction list to its present pre-eminent position at a time when many publishers were cutting back on their children's fiction. This took courage and vision, and it was a venture supported by the chairman of Walker Books, David Lloyd, from the start.

Like all good editors, Boase abhorred sloppiness and could be impatient if her high standards were not met. But her colleagues loved and respected her, and many young editors benefited from her training. A rather severe and unchanging hair-style could give her a formidable air, but this was misleading - she was never a *grande dame*. She retained her down-to-earth Australian directness of manner, did not suffer fools, and had a robustly earthy sense of humour. Boase claimed to have no hobbies but she enjoyed walking and country life, was interested in antiques, never stopped reading and once knitted a Kaffe Fassett sweater. Cancer struck her with terrible swiftness and was endured with awesome grace.

"Nothing but the rarest kind of best in anything is good enough for children," wrote Walter de la Mare. Wendy Boase lived that ideal, and the many authors and artists she nurtured with such skill will keep it alive for her.

JULIA MACRAE

Wendy Boase, book editor: born Melbourne, Victoria 14 October 1944; married 1979 John Vigurs; died London 15 March 1999.

Professor Trevor Saunders

TREVOR SAUNDERS was a leading authority on ancient Greek philosophy and a superb teacher. He was known inside and outside Newcastle University for his personal integrity, scrupulous fairness, and strong sense of where a scholar's interests lay, spiced with occasional bouts of dark foreboding about What the Administration Was Planning Next. A scholar never failed to give pleasure.

He faced the destructive absurdities foisted upon universities in recent years not with blind resistance or hopeless resignation, but with a determination to preserve what every serious researcher in the humanities needs and the authorities nowadays bend over backwards to deny - the time to read, think and write. His own work on Plato showed what could be done by a scholar who harvested his research time carefully, but without compromising his commitment to students and colleagues or his sense of duty, however weary at times, to the administration.

His qualities were always in demand, locally and nationally, and brought him the chairmanship of the Council of University Classics Departments, membership of the government research assessment panel for Classics, a seat on the Council of Durham University. To his secure, clear-eyed judgement the Newcastle Classics Department and Arts Faculty turned, with gratitude and relief, time and again.

Saunders was raised on a farm in

Wiltshire, went to Chippenham Grammar School, in 1963 took up a scholarship at University College London (graduating with a First in Classics) and ended his formal education at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he completed a doctorate on Plato's *Lysis*. Greek, social, political and legal thought was to become the focus of his scholarly life, but early on he found he had a talent for translating, and produced a series of first-rate Penguin Classics. These included Plato's *Lysis* (1970), a complete revision of Aristotle's *Politics* (1981, originally by E.A. Sinclair - this paved the way for his text and translation of the first two books of *The Politics* in the Clarendon Aristotle series, 1993) and Plato's *Ion* in *Early Socratic Dialogues* (1987), a collection he edited and introduced.

His enviable gift for making complicated philosophy in an ancient language and distant culture comprehensible to a lay readership was never more clearly exhibited than in his teaching, to whose clarity, cogency, vigour and wit generations of students can testify. His scholarly work showed precisely the same qualities - he had no time for the trendy obsessions of the contemporary literary scene - and commanded a similar respect among his peers, as two recent international conferences on Plato's *Lysis* demonstrated.

His *Plato's Penal Code* (1991), a fat book without an ounce of fat on it, was the culmination of a lifetime's intense



Saunders: Plato comprehended

reflection on Plato, a major contribution to our understanding of ancient Greek legal theory and practice, and a fitting monument to the man and his scholarship: beautifully written, wide-ranging (the surveys the field from Homer onwards) and sharply focused, rigorously and courteously argued, and exactly annotated.

Due to retire in September, he had been planning for some time the first modern investigation of ancient Greek theories of equity when cancer of the pancreas was diagnosed, leaving him a few weeks to live. This he bore with a proper philosophical equanimity,

buoyed by his and his beloved family's longstanding Catholic faith.

A demon croquet player (given the chance), Trevor Saunders found his relaxation in films and railways. It seemed that there was virtually no film he had not seen or would not go to see (for a long time he possessed no television, despising its small screen) and there was certainly nothing about the most obscure branch-line on which he would not discourse, if prompted. Films about railways were his idea of heaven. He was on the footplate of the last train to travel the Wansbeck line, and tape-recorded the sound for posterity. His cremation ended, as his family fittingly insisted, with the sound of that train chugging out of Woodburn station, bearing him on its way.

PETER JONES

Trevor John Saunders, classical scholar: born Corsham, Wiltshire 12 July 1934; Assistant Lecturer in Latin, Bedford College, London University 1959-61; Assistant Lecturer in Classics, Hull University 1961-63; Lecturer 1963-65; Lecturer in Classics, Newcastle University, 1965-72; Senior Lecturer 1972-78; Reader in Greek Philosophy 1978; Professor of Greek 1978-99; Head of Classics 1972-82, 1987-92; Dean of the Faculty of Arts 1982-85; Chairman, Council of University Classics Departments 1981-84; married 1959 Teresa Schmitz (two daughters); died Newcastle upon Tyne 24 January 1999.

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

IN MEMORIAM

LASSOW: Hilda. In loving memory of my wonderful mother who left me last year. She was such a bright light and I miss her more than words can say. From her loving daughter.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette notices are charged at £10 (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

Mr George Benson, singer and jazz guitarist, 56; Mr Desmond Browne MP, 47; Miss Betty Callaway, ice-skating trainer, 71; Miss Sheila Cameron QC, Vicar-General of the Province of Canterbury, 65; Mr Brian Hanrahan, broadcaster, 50; Mr David Ingman, former Chairman, British Waterways Board, 71; The Very Rev Lawrence Jackson, Provost Emeritus of Blackburn, 73; Dr Harry Ray, former Vice-Chancellor, Exeter University, 80; Mr Werner Klempner, actor, 80; Lord Lloyd-Webber, composer, 51; Mr Peter McEvoy, golfer, 46; Mr Karl Malde, actor, 86; M Marcel Marceau, mime artist, 78; Mr Andrew Morris, High Commissioner to Tonga, 60; Mr Stephen Nash, ambassador to Georgia, 57; Mr Alan Ople, bari-

ANNIVERSARIES

tone, 54; Mr Charles Pick, former managing director, Heinemann, 82; Sir Lynden Pindling, former prime minister of the Bahamas, 69; Professor William Ritchie, Vice-Chancellor, Lancaster University, 59; Mr Paul Rogers, actor, 82; Mr Paul Schockemöhle, show-jumper, 54; Mr William Shatner, actor, 68; Mr Stephen Sondheim, composer and lyricist, 69; Professor Sir Colin Spedding, chairman, UK Register of Organic Food Standards Board, 74; Lord Stokes, former president, British Leyland, 85; Miss Mary Tamm, actress, 49; Mr Leslie Thomas, writer, 68; Professor Sir Leslie Turnbull, chairman, Specialist Training Authority, 65; Miss Fanny Waterman, pianist and teacher, 75; Professor David Watson, Director, University of Brighton, 50.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Prince of Wales, Patron, the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Ethiopian Challenge 1999 Expedition, attends a reception in aid of the expedition. The Princess Royal, Patron, the Butler Trust, attends the Annual Award Ceremony at Buckingham Palace; opens Hill Romes' new nursing home, Bridgeton Lodge in Wharf Road, London W1; and, as Patron, Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, attends the launch of a new biography of Gerald Durrell at Harper-Collins, Fulham Palace Road, London SW7.

LECTURES

Royal Academy of Arts, at the Society of Antiquaries, London W1: MaryAnne Stevens, "Monet's Perception of Modernity", 1pm.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; F Company Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am. Band provided by the Scots Guards.

LITERARY NOTES

DEBBIE TAYLOR

Time to get out of the kitchen

SPRING IS the season of the Orange Prize for women's fiction. It now sprawls like marmalade across nearly three months: from the inaugural Orange Lecture this Monday, through the Orange Breakfast at the end of the month (when the long short-list is announced), on through to the June Declaration of the short short-list and the final prizewinner a week later.

And once again, as every year, it will be open season on the award's feminist agenda as the media get their knickers in a familiar twist about anything smacking of positive discrimination. What may not be realised, however, is that this whole debate is being quietly overtaken by events. Inexorably women are sloughing off decades of under-education and gaining on men in the race for literary distinction.

From birth, women display a greater aptitude for and love of words. Girls speak read and write earlier than boys and stay ahead in verbal skills all the way through school. As women, they tend to buy more books than men, borrow more from libraries and spend more time reading. In fact, there are now twice as many women literary graduates than men; twice as many enrolling on creative-writing courses.

Of course, this doesn't

mean it's all petals in the rose garden. All the evidence shows a woman author's path is strewn with many more thorns than a man's.

For a start, women simply have less time to devote to their writing. The UK's most recent national survey found women doing twice as much housework and childcare as men. Candia McWilliam spoke for many when she claimed that "one child equals two unwritten books".

It's no coincidence that so many prominent woman authors, today and throughout history, are either childless or lesbian or both. Confidence is another problem. A series of recent surveys and market research carried out found that, despite their passion for writing, women are over 50 per cent less likely than men to submit their work for publication.

In a sense this is not surprising. The world of literature, as reflected in the national press, is still a very masculine domain, with twice as many books by men published and over twice as many reviewed - by reviewers who are three times as likely to be men.

Then there are the literary prizes. Men have outnumbered women by around two to one on all the major shortlists for the last 30 years. In poetry the imbalance is even greater, with men win-

ning over nine out of every 10 prizes.

But those who look carefully enough see that the tide is on the turn. Never before have so many women taken writing quite so seriously. The two last censuses revealed a quite dramatic increase in the numbers of women taking up writing as a career. From being just 34 per cent of people whose main occupation was writing in 1981, the number of women had increased to 43 per cent a decade later. Come 2001, if the trend continues, female writers will outnumber male writers for the first time in history. And that's not including the many thousands writing part-time, in snatched and stolen time, in "that still blue almost eternal hour before the baby's cry".

It's time to stop picking at the scabs of an old debate and look at the bigger picture. Yes, it is more difficult for women writers to make a mark. But hey: they are good, they are on their way, they are getting there. And they deserve any prize that's going. As the judges digest the submissions for the Orange Prize, it's time for the spoilers to get out of the kitchen. The cooking time is over.

Debbie Taylor edits *Mislexia*, the new magazine for women writers launched this month

CASE SUMMARIES

22 MARCH 1999

THE FOLLOWING notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the *All England Law Reports*.

Costs

R v Liverpool Magistrates' Court, ex p Abubakar QBD, Div Ct (Keane LJ, Blotfeld J) 5 March 1999.

On a true construction of s 16(1) of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 any magistrates' court had the power to make a defendant's costs order; the power was not restricted to the particular bench of magistrates who had actually dismissed the case against the defendant. Furthermore, there was nothing in the statute which stated that costs orders had to be made timeously.

Stuart Mills (RM, Broudie & Co, Liverpool) for the applicant.

Tax

Hilldown Holdings plc v IR Commrs, Ch D (Arden J) 11 March 1999.

THE WORD "payment" meant "effective payment" in relation to a payment made to an employer out of its approved pension scheme, giving rise to a tax liability under s 601 of the Taxes Act 1988. Where the payment to the employer was found to be in breach of trust and was returned to the pension fund by order of the court, there was no "effective payment" and the Revenue had to repay the tax.

David Oliver QC and Nigel Giffen (Herbert Smith) for the taxpayer; Im Chick QC and Richard Gillis UR Solicitors for the Crown.

Sentencing

Attorney-General's Reference (No 71 of 1998), CA, Crim Div (Judge LJ, Sachs, Klevan JJ) 8 March 1999.

WHERE AN offender who had

already been convicted of a "serious offence" within s 2(5) of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997 committed a robbery which, in order to qualify as a second "serious offence" making him liable to a sentence of life imprisonment, required that the offender had had possession of a firearm, it was sufficient that the offence had been committed as a joint enterprise where a firearm had been used, even though the offender himself had never had possession of it.

Nail Moore (CPS) for the Attorney General; Louise Godfrey QC (Orchard Slone Bateson, Leeds) for the offender.

Employment

Barber and ors v RJB Mining (UK) Ltd, QBD (Gage J) 3 March 1999.

REGULATION 4(1) of the Working Time Regulations 1998, which set a maximum weekly working time for all workers covered by the regulations, imposed a contractual obligation on the parties which was capable of remedy in the civil courts, and accordingly the employment tribunal did not have exclusive jurisdiction over claims arising out of the regulations.

Brian Longstaff QC (Keeble Hanson, Sheffield) for the plaintiffs; Nicholas Underhill QC (Freshfields) for the defendant.

Reinsurance

Wurttembergische Aktiengesellschaft Versicherungs-Beteiligungsgesellschaft v Home Insurance Co, CA (Gutler-Stoss, Aldous, Brooke LJ) 9 March 1999.

A JUDGE deciding a preliminary issue in the course of prolonged litigation was wrong to use the expression "persuasive obiter dicta" in relation to earlier judgments on other pre-

liminary issues in the same litigation, since those judgments were binding only in relation to the matters which they had purported to decide.

Jonathan Hirst QC, Neil Calver (Barlow Lyde & Gilbert) for the appellants; Mark Howard QC, Robin Dicker (Holman Fenwick & Willan) for the respondents.

Extradition

Re Barker, QBD, Div Ct (Rose LJ, Mitchell J) 16 March 1999.

THE WORD "sentence" in art VII(4) of Sch 1 to the United States of America (Extradition) order 1976 was not confined to a sentence of imprisonment, but included a term of supervised release to be served following a term in custody. Such a supervised release was not an ancillary order, but was an integral part of the sentence passed. Furthermore, an order to pay a sum of money by way of restitution and a fine also fell within the article as being a sentence.

John Hardy (Christmas & Sheehan) for the applicant; Roy Brown (CPS) for the Governor of Brixton Prison and the United States Government.

Adoption

Re B (a minor) (adoption order: nationality), Hmns of Lords (Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, Lord Hoffmann, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Batten and Lord Millet) 11 March 1999.

WHEN CONSIDERING whether to make an adoption order under s 6 of the Adoption Act 1976, the court should not, in determining whether the child's welfare called for adoption, ignore benefits which would result solely from a change in immigration status.

Michael Harrison QC, David Jones (Blake Lophorn) for the appellants; Ashley Underwood (Treasury Solicitor) for the respondents.

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

ken, n. and v.

A week goes by / In which some one doesn't die. / So we really mustn't grumble very much. / One can picture this harmonising vicar

and curate: "though we fill the cup of duty to the very brim / Ideas may sometimes swim / Into our ken". Curiously, *ken* - with many European equivalents and defined by Johnson as "view; reach of sight" - is seemed rare by the OED, when it was surely given currency by Kenneth Horne's wireless show.

You've always got a friend in New Hampshire

I WAS intending this week to write about some exasperation or other of modern American life when Mrs Bryson (who is, may I say, a dear woman) brought me a cup of coffee, read the first few lines of the computer screen, muttered, "Bitch, bitch, bitch", and shuffled off.

"Pardon, my dewy English rose?" I called.

"You're always complaining in that column."

"But the world needs righting, my luscious, cherry-cheeked daughter of Boadicea," I rejoined tranquilly. "Besides, complaining is what I do."

"Complaining is all you do."

Well, excuse me, but not quite. I believe that on these very pages I once wrote a few words of praise for American garbage disposal units, and I clearly recall commending our local post office for providing me with a free doughnut on Customer Appreciation Day. But perhaps she had a point.

There are many wonderful things about the United States of America that deserve praise -

the Bill of Rights, the Freedom of Information Act and free bookmatches are three that leap to mind - but none is more outstanding than the friendliness of the people.

When we moved to this little town in New Hampshire, people received us as if the one thing that had kept them from total happiness up to that point was the absence of us in their lives. They brought us cakes and pies and bottles of wine. Not one of them said: "So you're the people who paid a fortune for the Smith place", which I believe is the traditional greeting in England. Our next-door neighbours, upon learning that we were intending to go out to eat, protested that it was too dreary to dine in a strange restaurant on your first night in a new town and insisted that we come to them for dinner there and then, as if feeding six extra mouths were the most trifling of burdens.

When word got round that our furniture was on a container ship making its way from Liverpool to Boston, evidently by way of Port

Said, Mombasa and the Galapagos Islands, and that we were temporarily without anything to sleep on, sit on or eat from, a stream of friendly strangers (many of whom I have not seen since) began traipsing up the walk with chairs, lamps, tables, even a microwave oven.

It was dazzling, and it has remained so. At Christmas last year we went to England for 10 days and returned home late at night and hungry to find that a neighbour had stocked the fridge with both essentials and goodies, and filled vases with fresh flowers. This sort of thing happens all the time.

Recently, I went with one of my children to a local college basketball game. We arrived just before game time and joined a queue at one of the ticket windows. After a minute a man came up to me and said: "Are you waiting to buy tickets?"

No, I wanted to reply, I'm standing here to make the line more impressive, but of course all I said was: "Yes, I am."

"Because you can have these,"



BRYSON'S AMERICA

he said and thrust two tickets at me. My immediate thought, born of years of stupidly misreading situations, was that he was a tout and that there must be a catch.

"How much?" I said warily.

"No, no, you can have them. For free. We can't go to the game, you see." He indicated a car outside, with the motor running and a woman sitting in the passenger seat.

"Really?" I said. "Well, thank you very much." And then I was struck by a thought. "Did you make a special trip here to give away two tickets?"

"They were going to go to

waste otherwise," he said apologetically. "Enjoy the game."

I could go on and on about this sort of thing - about the young man who returned my son's lost wallet with nearly all his summer's wages in it and wouldn't take a reward; about the employees of the cinema who go out if it starts to rain and roll up all the windows of cars parked along nearby streets on the assumption that at least some of them will belong to cinema customers who don't know it is raining; how after the wife of the local police chief lost her hair during chemotherapy treatment every member of the force had his head shaved to raise money for a cancer charity, and to make the chief's wife feel less conspicuous.

That people leave their cars unlocked and the windows open tells you something more about the town, of course. The fact is, there is no crime here. People will casually leave a \$500 bicycle propped against a tree and go off to do their shopping. If someone did steal it, I am almost certain

the victim would run after the thief shouting: "Could you please return it to 32 Wilson Avenue when you've finished? And watch out for the third gear - it sticks."

No one locks anything. I remember being astounded by this on my first visit, when an estate agent took me out to look at houses (and there's another thing - estate agents in America know how to stand up and move around) and she kept leaving her car unlocked, even when we went into a restaurant for lunch and even though there was a portable phone on the seat and some shopping in the back.

At one of the houses she discovered she had brought the wrong key. "Back door" it be unlocked," she announced confidently, and it was. I subsequently realised that there was nothing unusual in this. We know people who go away on holiday without locking their doors, don't know where their house key is, aren't even sure whether they still have one.

Now you might reasonably wonder why, then, this is not a

thief's paradise. There are two reasons, I believe. First, there is no market for stolen goods here. If you sidled up to anyone in New Hampshire and said, "Wanna buy a car stereo?" the person would look at you as if you were off your head and say: "No, I already have a car stereo." Then they would report you to the police and - here is the second thing - the police would come and shoot you. But, of course, the police don't shoot people here because they don't need to, because there is no crime. It is a rare and heart-warming example of a virtuous circle. We have grown used to this now, but when we were still new in town and I expressed wonder about it all to a woman who grew up in New York City but has lived here for 30 years, she laid a hand on my arm and said, as if imparting a great secret: "Honey, you're not in the real world any longer. You're in New Hampshire."

'Notes from a Big Country' by Bill Bryson is published by Doubleday, price £16.99

Stalking is a crime which can be terrifying and can destroy a victim's life. So why would anyone make it up? By Dr Raj Persaud

Stalking out of the mind's shadows

For four years, one woman claimed she was being terrorised by a stalker called "The Poet", who bombarded her with threatening letters in rhyme. A butcher's knife arrived from him at Christmas; he cut her telephone line; he threw concrete blocks at her home; he even abducted her, stabbing her in the back.

When she was found mailing letters from "The Poet" to herself, the middle-aged American woman confessed that he had never existed.

This case, reported in 1984, was the first claim of false stalking to be made. But now new research from Australia suggests that as many as 10 per cent of stalking claims may be fictitious.

"False Victimisation Syndrome" is just one of a new set of psychiatric disorders that has joined illnesses such as cancer, which are favourites among those who set out to dupe doctors. The motivation of the "pseudovictims" can seem mysterious, but most psychologists believe the behaviour is attention-seeking, the only way an isolated individual has of obtaining sympathy.

In their paper in the *British Journal of Psychiatry*, Australian psychiatrists Dr Michele Pathé and colleagues, examined 12 individuals who had falsely claimed to be victims of stalking. Significantly, none was in a stable relationship, a stark contrast with the true victims that the Australian doctors saw in their specialist clinic. This strongly suggests that it is the enlistment of help and support from others that drives the need to claim you are in danger.

According to psychologists, true

victims of stalking are usually embarrassed by their situation and would rather not draw attention to themselves, in contrast to pseudovictims, who try as hard as possible to get assistance from others. Genuine sufferers are often reluctant to notify the authorities of their problem, fearing that this may even exacerbate their predicament, while false victims happily, even gleefully, come forward.

Another clue as to what is really going on lies in the rhythm with which incidents are reported. Pseudovictims tend to generate more complaints if it seems as though others may be losing interest in the case. But in three of the 12 cases reported from Australia the victims had suffered genuine stalking in the past, and had as a result become hypersensitive to a possible recurrence, seeing stalking in the blameless actions of others.

In six of the 12 cases Dr Pathé describes, the cause of the false claims was in fact a paranoid delusion about being followed, which the psychotic had incorporated into their fantasy life, perhaps because paranoid about stalking, fuelled by media reports, is currently so widespread. Yet the public fear of stalking is often based on a false picture generated by the media, which focuses on celebrity stalking, where disturbed fans are usually involved.

In cases involving ordinary members of the public, it is much more common for any stalking to be done by someone already fairly well known to the victim. Ironically, in one case reported by Dr Pathé the false victim of stalking was in fact a stalker - the false claim seemed to be an attempt to pre-empt the vic-



A new study suggests about ten per cent of reported stalking incidents are fictitious, the only way some isolated individuals can get attention

Chris Clark

tim's complaint. This echoes another bizarre case from the US where a stalker took out an injunction against a victim, to stop the person following the stalker.

This begins to make psychological sense if you see stalkers as people so obsessed with their victims that they are unable to get thoughts of their quarry out of their minds, even when they may want to. In a sense, they themselves feel trapped by their targets.

However complex the problem of telling the genuine from the false in the weird world of stalking, one salient fact is incontestable: the time and energy devoted to investigating false claims takes away precious and increasingly meagre

resources from genuine crimes and victims. But even when the authorities suspect they have a pseudovictim on their hands, the problem of how to confront the issue with the perpetrator can be a difficult one.

In another famous US case, a woman filed 60 complaints over six months, claiming that she had found underwear in her house with red hearts drawn on in lipstick, and that she had suffered break-ins and had found blood-soaked teddy bears left above her garage entrance so they would fall on those closing the door. One was found in her baby's cot. After several press conferences held by the victim, where she complained about the lack of interest of the local police, she was caught on

videotape placing a teddy bear in her garage. It transpired that the motivation was an attempt to make living in her house so uncomfortable that it would force her reluctant husband to agree to move.

In 1995, Cindy Garvey, the ex-wife of a famous baseball player, reported a number of stalking events to the Los Angeles police. After numerous phone calls pleading for help, she went to them with a black eye and damaged nose. It later emerged that she had in fact been harassing her ex-husband and an ex-boyfriend. She confessed that she manufactured the stalking incidents to exact revenge against her ex-boyfriend.

This is a common motivation - to inflict vengeance against a loved one

who has ended a relationship. Alternatively an ex-partner may be galvanised into protecting the "victim" from a mysterious anonymous threat, and so fictitious claims of being stalked can connect you with someone who was not otherwise likely to return.

Dr Pathé and her colleagues suggest a sympathetic approach which acknowledges that false victims in most cases are distressed and disturbed individuals. Dr Kris Mohandie, a police psychologist at the Los Angeles Police Department who specialises in False Victimisation Syndrome, explains that their approach is to state to the pseudovictim that "events did not occur as you told us", but then to

allow a face-saving exit for the perpetrator by portraying the falsehood as a "cry for help". After all, seeking a victim's role as the only way of achieving a sense of personal identity suggests something fundamentally wrong with their psychological development.

But perhaps the cause also partly lies in a society so obsessed by the cult of celebrity that anyone who is anyone must have their own stalker - the ultimate status accessory; the same society where assuming the role of a victim is increasingly the only way to get any attention.

Dr Raj Persaud is a consultant psychiatrist at the Maudsley Hospital in south London

The dyslexic rasta jailbird turned dub-reggae poet activist

Continued from page 1
wheelchairs saying: "Why don't you write more about black women in wheelchairs?" Gradually you understand that he's something of a community hero. Posters of him (looking like Lenny Kravitz) appear in shop windows. The British Dyslexia Association put his picture on postcards ("He finds it difficult to cope with the word 'But' it's never stopped his voice being heard"). There's even a brief, respectful hagiography about him, written for children and illustrated in pastels, like the life of Christ or Nelson Mandela. His role as black spokesman and political poet was recently crystallised by a single work: a poem called "What Stephen Lawrence has Taught Us",

commissioned by Channel 4, a chilly indictment of things even government enquiries can't ameliorate. It starts and ends with the line "We know who the killers are".

"The poem," said Zephaniah, "is about how we sit and watch the academics and super-cops trying to define institutionalised racism, while black people continue to die in police custody, or emptying out their pockets in the street, or are killed without there being any killers. It's like, we're trying to define racism, but there they are, we know who they are. I think you can genuinely tap into what people feel and what they think is not being expressed."

It sealed his reputation. "The day after it came out, a busload of

kids went past me and they shouted out, 'We know who the killers are!' People were walking around in the street saying, 'We know who the killers are!'."

In other words, Benjamin, you've become the People's Poet. How about the Laureateship? "I don't want to talk about it. I've always refused to talk to the press about it. But there's a banner down the road saying 'Benjamin Zephaniah for Poet Laureate'. Little old ladies come up and say, 'You are the people's laureate, you don't need that job. You wrote that poem about Stephen Lawrence and it moved me.'"

Mr Zephaniah is, he says, a "griot", a Jamaican word that means several things: a poet who is also an

actor; a musician; an alternative newscaster; a political commentator. There's no English equivalent, though a troubadour with a satiric bent might come close. It's a frustration for Zephaniah, who left Britain three years ago to recite his verse in places where they'd understand such things. "I had this yearning to perform where this tradition was very much alive, and where I wasn't always being asked 'What is the poet's role in society?' and 'Why are you so political?' and 'Are you a failed actor?' When I perform in the townships of South Africa, and in India and Pakistan, they think of poetry first and foremost as being oral. In fact, they ask me: 'Why do you have to put it into books at all?'"

Zephaniah has a novel for children, entitled *Force*, out in August. His love poetry anthology out in September and a new volume of angry political verse, *Too Black, Too Strong*, out next year. He's developing a children's television series for Granada and planning to go on tour with a band. He is amazingly busy, energetic and passionate. If he is not an especially accomplished poet qua poet, he's a dozen other things at once - a voice of the community; a hero to disadvantaged young blacks; an asker of awkward questions; a happy rapper.

"I'm at home in any city," he says, in his cool, travelling-man way. How fortunate for east Londoners to have such a "griot" in their midst.



JP 11/10/50

When two heads are better than one

FAMILY AFFAIR

Amrit and Rabindra Kaur Singh, 33, are identical twins and work together as artists in the Wirral on Merseyside. Their critically acclaimed paintings – always done in tandem – use intricate detail in modernising the classical Indian miniature tradition, and include a recent portrayal of Diana, Princess of Wales, as a Hindu goddess with six arms



Amrit Kaur Singh

Bindy and I share the same room. We've got single beds on opposite sides of the room. So we are together all night and most of the day. We have identical wardrobes, right down to hairbands and ribbons, so whoever gets up first opens up the cupboard and sees what needs ironing. The one who is up takes one set of clothes downstairs and leaves the other set behind. Then whoever is still in bed knows what we are wearing that day.

We make a point of dressing identically not because we are freakish or faddish. In terms of our art it is a political statement. It is part of our image as artists. When we were at college, the be-all and end-all of modern art was to express individualism. It was the same at school, where we were put in different classes, even though best friends were always allowed to sit together. The official line seems to be that twins are better off brought up individually. But that did not fit in with us as Asians or as twins.

On the Asian front, this idea of individuality is quite an alien concept. We focus on family. There is no such thing as "I" or "me". Equally, tutors could not understand how as twins we were inspired by the same Indian miniature tradition and produced very similar art. There is this fear among people who do not understand the relationship between twins. They think that because we are similar physically, or in action, dress or hobbies, we are not two individuals. There is a feeling in the art world that this is not healthy. An examiner in our final examinations asked us whether we had ever tried to be different. People were always asking us that question. It brought home to us the prejudice people have towards who we are. We are not trying to copy each other – we are just being who we are.

We even get irritated now if people can tell us apart. We think that if we are going to be twins we should do it properly. So when people call me Rabindra, I find it quite funny. We answer to both names anyway – it saves a lot of time. But there are differences. My sister is much cooler and more organised in her work. She is more of a perfectionist. She is also more bubbly in company than me.

The only time we are apart on a regular basis is when my sister goes to karate lessons three times a week. I used to go as well, but there was an

illness in the family, and someone was needed to look after that person. I also took up flute lessons, which was the first thing we did differently. Rabindra always wanted to learn the piano, so now she plays that. But we go to the same teacher for lessons, one after another, so we get back in sync again.

The prospect that one day we may not be together is difficult. Marriage is highly valued in our culture – it's arranged by the family. I don't think one of us would marry and the other would not. In an ideal world it would be nice if we could marry twins. The only reason being that they would be two people who were close, so the four-some would be close. For myself, I think there may be more valuable or stronger relationships than the twin relationship – between a mother and her children, or perhaps between husband and wife.

Rabindra Kaur Singh

We do look identical, but I would not say we are identical in every way. There have been periods in our lives when we looked identical, but at the moment we look like sisters. We both have a beauty spot on the right cheek. Over the years, Amrit's has grown more prominent than mine. So when we go out, I'll pencil mine in. Only one person has been cheeky enough to smudge it with their finger to see who is telling the lie.

I remember that when we were at school, Amrit had a dental appointment. At that time, the teachers insisted on putting us in different classes. So I went to Amrit's class to say she would be late. I was just walking in and the teacher, thinking I was Amrit, started to tell me off for being late. I let her carry on, and she told me to face the blackboard until after morning prayers. When she turned me around I said, "Miss, I'm Bindy, not Amrit", which was a bit naughty. She just said, "You stupid girl".

Actually, I would enjoy being twins more if we were really identical. But you cannot fix some things. Amrit has a thinner jaw and face than me. I'm rounder. It's not about who eats more chocolate – though I always eat more than her. It is in the bone structure of the face. The rest of our bodies are very similar. Some people cannot pick it out, but it is obvious to us.

In our work there are differences. I'm a bit more patient. Amrit wants to get jobs done. But Amrit has tried to



'Indian Summer At Dhigpal Nivas', 1995, by Amrit and Rabindra Kaur Singh Twin Studio Collection

catch up with me, to make her style neater. Now you can hardly tell our work apart, whereas 10 years ago it would have been easy. Amrit also does some things better than me. She is more imaginative, better at designing motifs and patterns straight from her head. So I try to emulate her in that respect.

Secrets between us are impossible. A few weeks ago, it was our birthday and a member of the family asked me to buy a CD for Amrit. It was Jesus Christ Superstar, the sound-track. We were going to a meeting in Liverpool, and I told her we would have to go early because I had to pick something

up. She immediately said: "You're going to buy that CD, aren't you?" What could I say? It is impossible to keep things from one another.

In fact, we have never bought each other birthday presents or cards. It would seem silly, like buying presents for yourself. We get very upset if people don't buy us the same presents, especially when it is clothes or jewellery. If they buy only one of something, we have to exchange it or buy another.

The longest we have been apart was when I was in hospital for a week. It was quite depressing. I missed her company and worried

about her being ill. When you have spent your life together and always shared the same bedroom, it is hard.

When it comes to death, I suppose the ideal is to die together so neither person suffers. That isn't just true for twins like us. It is relevant for husbands and wives, brothers and sisters. But it's not going to happen like that. It will be saddest for the person left behind. They will have the heartache.

INTERVIEW BY JACK O'SULLIVAN

Entwined is on display at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery until 13 June

A desperate plight for old and young

Caring for an elderly relative is no easy task, and many find the strain too great. By Jack O'Sullivan

MARY STANSBIE, 78, had been dead in her bed for up to three weeks when her body was discovered by a district nurse. "Help me" and "No help" were scrawled on her bedroom walls.

Her case sounds like a tragic account of an elderly person dying alone, bereft of friends or relatives. You imagine her on her own in a high-rise flat, her absence unnoticed. Yet Mrs Stansbie died in her family home in Smethwick, West Midlands. She lived there with her daughter and two granddaughters. Apparently, they had not realised she was dead.

Put so bluntly, the story seems as bizarre as it is sad, a tale of extraordinary suffering rather than a comment on everyday life. What happened to the family ties that provide comfort in people's final days?

Yet the inquest last week into her death highlighted common problems when elderly people seek sanctuary with their families. Ms Stansbie suffered from dementia. Her daughter said she often took to her room for weeks, armed with biscuits and other food. The breakdown in relationships which took place in this instance is not unusual.

Take Thomas, from Yorkshire, as an example. He had to give up his job to look after his elderly mother, who was paralysed and unable to speak. So she was totally dependent, but able to give him little feedback for his efforts. He had no break for four years. "He rang to say that he had hit his mum out of sheer frustration," recalls Jill Harrison, who runs the Carers' Helpline. "He had hit her quite badly, and felt dreadful when he rang us. He was worried about how far he would take it."

Resentment can poison life with a vulnerable old person. Whereas, in the past, daughters – who still do most of the work – might have been at home in any case, these days looking after an elderly relative requires a dramatic change in lifestyle. Suddenly, the hospital rings to say that your mother is being discharged, and she cannot manage at home. She needs to stay with you. Yet she could be a person for whom you never felt much affection.

Ms Harrison describes a caller who had been abroad for years, and was told by social services that her mother needed residential care. "Since her mother lived alone, the house would be sold to pay the fees. But that was money the daughter had been hoping would revive her business abroad. So she returned to Britain to look after her mother, and became very resentful. She told her mother, who had had a stroke, that she did not intend to be around all the time; if she had a fall, then tough."

That might sound like an uncaring statement. Yet those who look after old people grow desperate. "Looking after someone can include never getting a good night's sleep, and being on call 24 hours a day,

every day," says Denise Malcolm, of the Carers' Association. "You may never be able to take a holiday. It can be impossible to attend family events such as weddings because there is no one to look after Mum. Couples may also not agree about an elderly person coming to live with them. A woman may be keen to look after her own mum and dad, but not her partner's stepfather."

"There can be a serious money problem," says Jill Harrison. "A carer will say to us, 'I have to live on £38.70 a week in invalid care allowance, yet Mum has a good pension from Dad and an attendance allowance, but will not give me more than £10 a week for food. I'm getting into debt.' We can't condone the misuse of elderly people's benefits, but it does happen. Money can get very tight."

Ginny Jenkins, director of Action on Elder Abuse, encounters some of the worst cases. She leads through a log of calls to the charity's helpline.

'He hit his mum out of frustration. He was worried about how far he would take it'

"Here is a case of an 80-year-old mother who provided a home for her alcoholic daughter in return for being looked after. The daughter had been on a drinking binge, wasn't feeding the mother, and wouldn't let anyone into the flat."

Professionals warn against painting a picture of widespread neglect, although there is little research to establish its real prevalence. The experts distinguish between the rare sadistic types, who mistreat elderly relatives because of personality problems, and the majority of abusers, whose behaviour is a reaction to stress.

There are potential legal remedies. The Government is considering introducing protective legislation for vulnerable adults. The 1998 Family Act could also be activated to protect old people. Designed to deal with domestic violence, it allows a perpetrator to be excluded from a property even if he or she owns it.

However, in the main the answer lies in providing better support for those who do an extraordinary task. If you are desperate, the helpline all say, walk away before you do something dreadful. Any carer can ask social services to assess their ability and resources to do the job – a job that carries many of the burdens of child care, with few of the rewards.

The Carers' Line is 0345 573369; The Action on Elder Abuse helpline is 0800 731 411

Millennium Bug bites children hardest

Primary school children worry about computers failing precisely because they understand their power. By Sophie Radice

AS A child my brother used to cry in bed at night about the possibility of those old Seventies despots Pol Pot and Idi Amin coming to England and killing all his family. We could reassure him, with some confidence, that we thought they were both quite preoccupied with other things – and after a while he would move on and start worrying about something else he had seen on John Craven's Newsround.

Now my own son, aged eight and temperamentally rather like his uncle, talks incessantly about the biggest threat to the world as we now know it: the Millennium Bug.

"Do you realise that all the traffic lights will stop, so all the cars will crash into each other, and the hospitals won't even work any more? There will be no electricity or heating supplies or water, so everything will be cold and dark. No shops will

work, so there will be no food. There will be nothing left. Mum, can you understand that?"

Another of his friends, who is slightly less apocalyptic, is far more concerned with the specific threat of planes falling from the sky, and tells me about the how whole towns will be destroyed on New Year's Eve. He is going to try to make an underground cave for his friends and family. "You can come if you want, too," he says kindly. Yet another child says that he wants to go and stay on a Scottish island and stand on a hill and watch as all systems fail and the lights go out on the mainland.

Primary school teachers say that they have noticed a general feeling of anxiety from schoolchildren, while Sony PlayStation, Sega Megadrive and PC companies report an increase in calls from children specifically concerned with the

effect of the Millennium Bug on their machines.

"I think there is a worry that their parents are not doing anything, or simply don't know enough to be able to deal with it, and the kids are trying to get some information for themselves," says a Sony spokesperson. Hamley's toy shop is selling a large, hairy spider-like monster called "The Millennium Bug" which has been a huge success, perhaps because parents are trying to lighten their children up by turning their anxieties into a funny, fluffy toy, or maybe because children are hoping to bring the whole issue to their parents' attention by buying the Bug and placing it on top of the computer at home.

Parents can't soothe away fears of the Millennium Bug in the same way we have been able to dismiss ghosts and monsters, because it is difficult



Children are more computer-literate Billy Griffiths

to know what will really happen when the time comes. I have tried to concentrate on the radio programmes that have geeky-voiced computer experts predicting Armageddon – "find a point as far away from a nuclear plant as is humanly possible, buy lots of blankets and stay close to your elderly par-

ents". Try as I may, all I can do is hope that my overdraft may be wiped off all known bank records, and imagine the kind of day when adverse weather conditions cause a welcome chaos and stop everyone from going to school.

Adults must seem like the dull dots of children's adven-

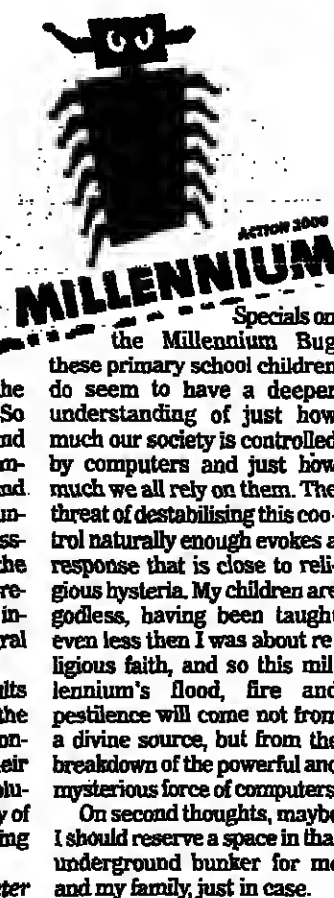
ture stories who never seem to understand the danger that everyone in the community is in, even after the gang of children have thwarted the loony professor's plan to take over the world. The trouble is that I can't really offer reassurance, but instead mumble something about "experts working on it as we speak". "Working on what?" the eight-year-olds all say, wanting to know more, to get the technical details.

These children are of course far more computer-literate than parents like me, who are stuck on a few useless commands on Windows 95 and don't really want to know much more, thank you very much. Children at my son's primary school use computers as soon as they start nursery at the age of three. I had to go back to the PC shop because I was having difficulty controlling the mouse when I was 25.

Cary Cooper, professor of sociology at the University of Manchester Institute of Science, says that children's relationship to the Millennium Bug is particularly interesting because they are the computer generation. "So much of their education and leisure come from the computer. They talk about it and share information and are unfazed by linking up with a classroom in Africa or China on the Net. Computers have been presented to them as this great infallible force that is an integral part of their future."

"I think they overhear adults worrying or joking about the Millennium Bug and it concerns them not only that their parents are offering no solutions, but that the credibility of computers in general is being shaken up."

Even without Blue Peter



Vertigo! an exhibition by Rowan Moore, gets dizzy attempting to dramatise contemporary architecture. By Nonie Niesewand



The shock of the view

Vertigo! named after the 1958 film by Alfred Hitchcock, is a cliff-hanger of an architectural show in Glasgow, and a requiem to the 20th century.

Ten big, brash projects make it clear that size matters. Shanghai's 100-storey money market tower will scrape the sky, while in Hong Kong a mountain has been lopped off next to the harbour to create the world's biggest duty free shop, at Chek Lap Kok airport. The world's single biggest structure, the Millennium Dome at Greenwich, is big enough to hold 75,000 people at one time. And when all 50 cinemas in Ontario, California, screened the launch of *Titanic*, 1 per cent of the total number of movie-goers viewing it in the world were there.

Not all of this architecture-on-steroids is great, or even designer-label. But all 10 projects have either been recently completed or are in progress. "It's not a Utopian city of the future, but a microcosm of life as it's actually happening," says Rowan Moore. And that's what induces a faint feeling of unease.

The way Moore carves up the world vertiginously is to represent universal themes with scale models and photos: Culture (the new Tate at Bankside), Politics (Norman Foster remodelling the Reichstag), International Space (Hong Kong airport, by Foster again, with the world's first Minimalist airport lounge, by John Pawsen for Cathay Pacific) and Public Space (Yokohama Port Terminal, by Foreign Office architects). Private Homes (Lake Las Vegas resort, by Berlus Studios) is shown next to Public Housing, the Kitagata high-rise towers by Kazuyo

Sejima, and the theme of Money is represented by the Shanghai financial centre, by KPF. For Spectacle, the Greenwich Dome is shown adjacent to Artificial Nature – the landscaped gardens in Duisburg Nord, Germany, by Latz. Both projects turn industrially polluted soil into pleasurable places. Shopping is a vast mall at Ontario Mills, California, by Communication Arts.

Vertigo! looks at architecture beyond the buildings, as industrially polluted wastelands are cleaned up and reclaimed, while elsewhere in the world vast areas are being concreted over for the leisure industry – posh words for sex and shopping, according to Moore.

The exhibition begins in an Identikit white cube gallery space that shows the conversion of the power station at Bankside, by the Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron, into the new Tate. The young architects Caruso St John's transformed the cavernous Victorian Old Fruitmarket in Glasgow for the Vertigo! exhibition as part of the celebrations for Glasgow City of Architecture and Design 1999. Its installation is a scaled-down version of what is happening at the Tate and all over the world, as obsolete buildings empty of machines to become galleries and exhibition centres.

The exhibition avoids the commonly made distinction between "high" and "commercial" architecture. Architects are just part of a great team of landscapers, lighting designers, engineers and "imaginisers" (as they call the theme-park designers of these huge areas that have been cemented and glassed over). Moore goes so far as to ask, in the catalogue: "Are architects superfluous?" Clearly not.

But the exhibition suggests that the clients who sponsor architects and the people who use their buildings are just as interesting. Videos and stills throughout show people in the locations.

Vertigo! is not pushing a style, like most architecture exhibitions. It tries to show buildings and their interiors in a dramatised fashion. But the disparate nature of Vertigo! makes it hard work for the visitor. Certainly it is eclectic, but the symbolic expression of function by allusion to the past in familiar details has ceased. Moore deals with buildings culturally and socially, not with their form, or aesthetics of architecture.

It is a polemic about industrial decay – our ability to build over it and see beyond it is awesome. Vertiginous, even. But as an exhibition it falls a bit flat, largely because the scale models, photographs, pull quotes and talking heads in video loops can't convey the experience of such excesses. The soaring overhead natural light in the cavernous halls of Chek Lap Kok, the way you will leave your stomach behind on the ascent to the world's tallest tower in Shanghai, the experience of standing in the Dome at Greenwich Peninsula, cannot be evoked with models and photographs.

You leave the exhibition with a screening of *Clueless* which Moore chose because it's a laugh about shopping. He wanted to screen *Dawn of the Dead*, a horror film set in a mall, which probably says more about his real attitude. It's just that he had to please the sponsors.

Vertigo: The Strange New World of the Contemporary City is on until 16 May 1999 at the Old Fruitmarket, Albion Street, Glasgow G1



A drawing of the supports for the Greenwich Dome (above) and graphic blocks (top left) depicting cities and size Colin McPherson

A fresh façade for British architecture

The new president of Riba is keen to celebrate the history of buildings, and to convince us all of the importance of good design. By Nonie Niesewand

THE BUS shelter in Eltham where Stephen Lawrence was murdered should bear a blue plaque, says Marco Goldschmidt, the new president of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Structures have a meaning beyond bricks and mortar; they make a contribution to "history".

And which buildings would he knock down? All those Sixties corporate blocks on the South Bank opposite the Tate Gallery, "as far as the eye can see".

"They are a reminder of our society at its greediest and most philistine," he says. "Besides, they don't sit well with Turner and Mondrian." His only other contender for a blue plaque is James Stirling's and James Gowen's University of Leicester building, "which expresses the way the building works internally on the outside".

Marco Goldschmidt is 54 and for the next two years he will have the ear of politicians, the backbiting of his colleagues, and an agenda to promote British architecture at a sensitive time in its history "when the practice of architecture is about to be submerged by a wave of jargon".

But how important is Riba today? "Very. Riba has 27,000 members around the world. Besides, Riba is a charity, not a trade union, so it can impartially promote architecture at a time when forces against cultural values and institutions are strong."

Even so, its role has diminished in the last 20 years. Goldschmidt hates Thatcherism, and Riba's own inertia and introversion. Since he himself is neither inert nor introverted, the august body can expect changes when his two-year term of office begins in July. The president is clear about his goals: he wants to

make architects more accessible and show both government and society what they can get up to.

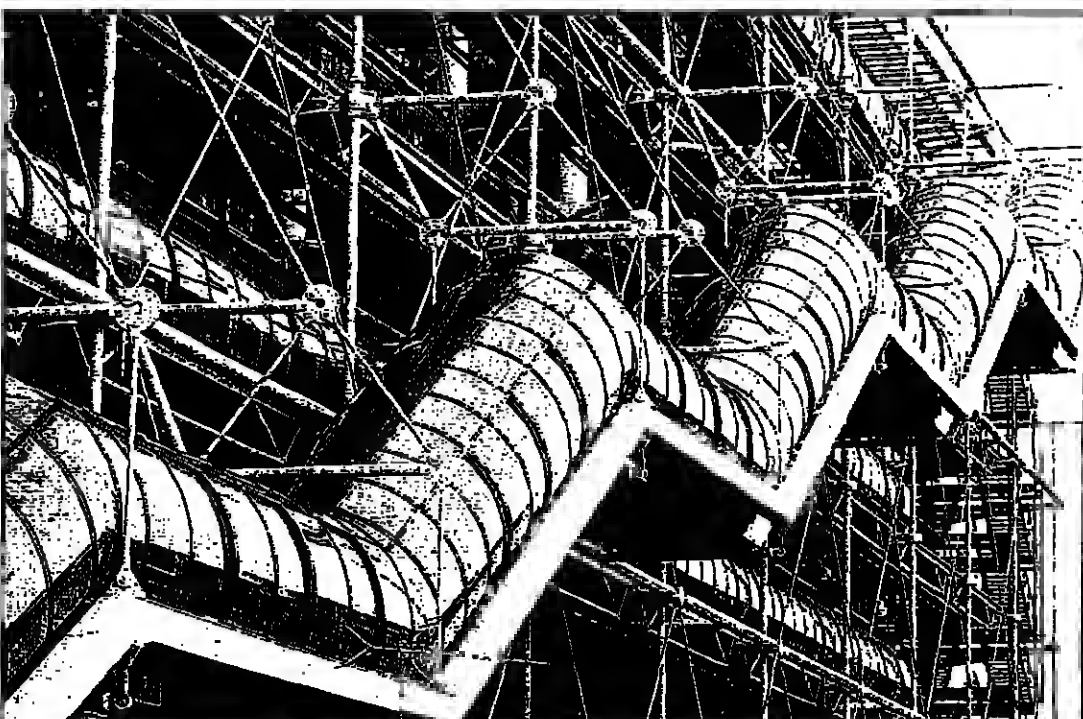
He is thrilled that the Queen's Gold Medal for Architecture was won by Barcelona, the first time it has been awarded to a city. "It's terrific that individuals and organisations that have done exceptional and relevant work to promote its artistic and scientific development are honoured. A mixture of mayors and town planners – and two of them are qualified architects."

Riba in 1999 is a bit like the BBC World Service: respected abroad but ignored at home; professional and with a reputation for integrity, a little dull, and losing audiences. But nobody should switch off. Buildings stand about for a long time and impact upon the environment, so the profession needs a strong spokesman and a strong policy-maker. But even though he has a management degree – he was project director in 1971-77 on the Pompidou Centre in Paris – Goldschmidt dismisses what he calls "management speak".

Labour wants to set up an advisory body, the Architectural Commission, under the auspices of Chris Smith at the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. Some fear that the chairman of English Heritage, Jocelyn Stevens – whose views are in temperate even when championing modern buildings – will apply. Marco Goldschmidt wants David Steel, former leader of the Liberal Democrats, to head the new body.

"At long last we've got Government interested in sending representatives to find out about architecture. Now we need a political architect interested in architecture."

If the new Architecture Com-



Riba's new president, Marco Goldschmidt (top right) is proud of his work at the Pompidou Centre (above) and wants a blue plaque for the bus shelter in Eltham where Stephen Lawrence was murdered (bottom right)

mission is to raise the quality of government buildings and those funded by government, such as New English Partnerships and the housing corporation, as well as private buildings, it needs funding. It will need to work closely with Riba and the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions.

So what is Goldschmidt's message to the two relevant ministers, John Prescott at DETR, and Chris Smith? "To resist the temptation to use the issues of the built environ-

ment to buy votes at the next election. We're still living with a lot of crap built under the two Harolds – Macmillan and Wilson. Use your power to force the nation out of the cheapstate, quick-fix mentality of the last two decades."

The only son of a widow – his Italian father died when he was ten – Goldschmidt moved from Trieste to Haregate as a child. His passport, in the name of Marco Lorenzo Sinnott Goldschmidt, attracted the attention of the xenophobic passport

operators, an experience that contributed to his awareness of racism. It may also be part of the reason why he became involved with Stephen Lawrence's family. Stephen wanted to be an architect and in 1998 Marco Goldschmidt introduced an award in his name for the best building under £500,000. "Riba should help anyone of any race, creed or gender who wishes to attain the necessary standards."

He studied at the Architectural Association in the Sixties when Lon-



Main photo: Martin Charles

don was swinging, and student power meant they fired their principal. Even as a student Marco exhibited signs of showmanship. Planning the annual all-night degree show party, he borrowed from the fashion grandee Diana Vreeland. "Think Pink" was the theme, and, dressed in pink flares from Carnaby Street, he got a band to play all night for £150. The band was Pink Floyd.

His first job on graduating from the AA was with Richard Rogers and he set up the Richard Rogers partnership in 1978, with Rogers and John Young. So what does he know now that he wished he'd known when he started as an architect in 1969? "Just how devastating the demise of the GLC would be for London, so that I could have told Ken Livingstone to play it a bit more low-key for a year or two."

Asked to identify a building for which he was responsible (as part of a team) and most proud, Marco Goldschmidt chose four: the Pompidou Centre in Paris, because it's so improbable; Lloyd's Insurance building in the City, because it's so versatile; Billingsgate in east London, because of its subtlety; and Patscenter in Princeton, because it's un-American.

Saatchi & Saatchi lobbied on Goldschmidt's behalf in his campaign in the run-up to the presidential elections at Riba. Just as friends, not commissioned, which shows the kind of networking that he enjoys. But he is touchy about it. "I did not have a spin doctor. I worked very hard on my campaign. I was helped by three friends in council and in the profession. I toured the country, holding meetings from Exeter to Edinburgh, from Belfast to Brighton. I did my own interviews and press conferences."

His aim is to make people more aware of the importance of architecture in their lives. "Riba must work to restore the primacy of architecture and its humanising influence in our culture. Architects are like other professionals, but we must explain that magical process – the line, planes and volumes in the mind manifesting in the physical form of a room, a street, a gallery or a square."

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about th

A restoration drama

The story of one Umbrian church is witness to the desperate attempts to halt the destructive power of Italy's earthquakes. By Rachel Halliburton

The baptism of Constantine the Great – the first Christian Roman emperor – was long attributed to Pope Sylvester I. This historically groundbreaking event was later shown to be a piece of medieval myth-making, but it is not the only legend that surrounds the early fourth-century pontiff. Indeed, a more fantastical act earned him the arguably more exotic title of "dragon-tamer".

Some time after Sylvester's death in AD335, a book called the *Aurea Legenda* appeared, which listed the saints and their feast days and provided unorthodox accounts of their lives. Sylvester's entry detailed an encounter with a monster who was not a virgin-chomping dragon, but a dragon with breath so poisonous that any Roman citizen who came within exhaling distance was dead quicker than you could say the word "Listerine". The pope, assiduously collecting points for sainthood, went down to the Forum, where the dragon was spreading its deadly fog, and after declaring his belief in Christ, revived two pagan priests and calmly led the monster out of Rome, thus ridding the city of its halitosis nightmare.

More than eight centuries after Pope Sylvester's death, Maestro Binelli finished building a church consecrated to his memory in the Italian town of Bevagna. San Silvestro, completed in 1195, is a strikingly beautiful piece of Romanesque architecture, with a barrel-vaulted ceiling, dramatically raised chancel and starkly simple interior, all of which combine to make it a gem. As the story of its saint shows, however, religion has a habit of fusing elements more at home with myth into its history, and this, tragically and ironically, has proved to be the case with the church.

Earthquakes, along with floods and thunderbolts, are very much the stuff of Old Testament legend, but in 1997 and 1998 a series of tremors in Italy left behind an all-too-prosaic catalogue of disasters – which included, along with the devastation of approximately 1,400 other churches in Umbria alone, severe damage to San Silvestro itself.

Stephen Eddy is the programme director for the World Monuments Fund (WMF) in Italy, and has the job of maintaining links with both local and national Italian authorities in order to determine which projects the fund takes up. As the eyes of the world focused on the apocalyptic devastation of the works of Giotto and Cimabue at the Basilica of St Francis of Assisi, Eddy was touring Umbria, helping his organisation in the almost impossible task of selecting which of the many other beautiful and historically important churches it should help resurrect. He was surrounded by chaos. Umbria was also dealing with the human tragedies caused by the

seismic impacts – the Assisi earthquake alone had made 30,000 people temporarily homeless, while several people were on medication to reduce the nervous strain of coping with their treacherously shifting landscape. After a long search he reached Bevagna – described by Sir Patrick Fairweather of the British Italian Society as "an exquisite example of a nearly complete vision of medieval architecture" – and it was here, in the form of San Silvestro, that he found the WMF's first post-earthquake project.

"Earthquake damage is a basic and fundamental attack on a building's structure," says Eddy. "The most serious damage normally happens at the parts of the building that are most rigid, so when the church starts swaying backwards and forwards there's damage where the nave and the transepts meet (at the building's main intersection), and the facade frequently detaches from the body of the church. This was what happened at the Basilica of St Francis of Assisi. The facade became insecure, and the vaults immediately behind it collapsed."

"San Silvestro, however, is even more complicated. During the earthquake, it turned clockwise on its foundations and tilted back. The back right-hand corner of the building split open and a quarter of the apse opened up. Two supporting columns on the right-hand side of the nave were so contorted that eventually they splintered."

To look at pictures of San Silvestro before and after the earthquake brings home the full force of the tremor's power. Indeed, stand in any church and imagine the columns dancing and the walls splitting open, and you will have some small idea of what the Italians endured from the middle of 1997 through to early 1998. Eddy is emotional when he describes San Silvestro today: "The columns are now completely re-inforced and bound together with straps and with splints. You see this building which is seriously compromised – all full of scaffolding – and it's upsetting."

The scale of the task facing restorers is gargantuan – not just physically but also intellectually. The high-profile controversy that art and architecture restoration continually court world-wide has led to increasing debate about which techniques to use – a process well illustrated in the art world by the ongoing restoration of Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper*. Early restorers made the mistake of attacking the decaying painting with glue and oil, which was stripped off by Giuseppe Mazza in the 18th century before he radically repainted the masterpiece. In 1924, the most sacrilegious assault occurred when Oreste Silvestri tried to "iron" the painting with heated cylinders, in a misguided attempt to push the paint back into place. Now such attempts would be obviously unthinkable – but even so, Signora Pinin Brambilla's painstaking and subtle 21-year



Bringing the roof down: the earthquakes of 1997-98 have left the church of San Silvestro in a precarious state Brian Harris

restoration has attracted fraught debate over the centuries as to what extent she should reinterpret the gaps in the painting, and how much she should leave to the viewer's imagination. Ovid wrote in his *Metamorphoses* that "the skill lies in concealing the skill", and this increasingly seems an apt way of summing up the philosophy behind leading restorers' work today, in their care to avoid the unwitting vandalism of their predecessors.

Unlike the Basilica of St Francis, San Silvestro has no frescoes or individual art works to deal with, but as Eddy points out, the history of architectural restoration has also gone through phases now denounced by experts as philistine – most recently in the Fifties. "There was a campaign by civil engineers to put reinforced concrete roof structures on all buildings, and that's been disastrous because you end up with buildings that are exceedingly top-heavy. Now the accepted method of restoration is to change as little as possible, and to use essentially traditional materials." He explains that as well as being historically more authentic, these methods of restoration give the churches a great practical advantage. "Buildings that have been restored according to traditional building techniques – such as those with timbered roof structures – tend to be more flexible and therefore more resistant to earthquakes."

Although the plans for the restoration have been drawn up, there is still the eternal problem of getting funds. Last year the British Italian Society, in conjunction with the WMF, raised £30,000 towards the money already secured. But, as Sir Patrick Fairweather points out, this is only a fraction of what is needed. Eddy is optimistic, however: "One of the things our funding is going to be able to pay for is the two splintered columns. I think that's a marvellous, because it's symbolic. After all – they are the things that actually hold up the church."

THIS WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS



Today On this day 40 years ago jazz history was made when Miles Davis went into the studio with brief outlines of two new tracks and completed his breathtaking *Kind of Blue* album. And in 1744 nursery rhyme history was made with the publication of "Baa, baa black sheep", in *Tommy Thumb's Song Book* by Mrs Mary Cooper.

Tomorrow In 1928, long before children's television, 2,000 youngsters queued to see a film of Robinson Crusoe at the Empire, Willesden, in Britain's first regular children's matinee. The Japanese director Akira Kurosawa was born in 1910. His *Seven Samurai* was reincarnated as *The Magnificent Seven* and his *Ran* (to be shown on Wednesday on FilmFour) is a born-again *King Lear*.

Wednesday The craftsman and socialist William Morris was born, in 1834. His designs live on in curtains and wallpapers, while his wife Jane Burden lives on in the Tate's *Queen Guinevere*, his only oil painting.

Thursday Fifty years ago *Hamlet* was the first British film to win an Oscar for Best Picture, and the director, Laurence Olivier (aged 40, with dyed hair) also won an Academy Award for playing the Dane.

Friday Having had his first musical job at 11 (well, he was a late starter) Beethoven died in 1827 aged 56, not long after completing "Ode to Joy", his funeral was a national day of mourning.

Saturday Sir Arthur Bliss died, in 1975, as well as composing *Miracle in the Gorbals*, he was Master of the Queen's Music, which is as badly paid a job as being Poet Laureate, but more tuneful.

Sunday Pop music got a shot in the arm, and the BBC's *Light Programme* a kick up the bum, in 1964 when Radio Caroline, Britain's first pirate station, began broadcasting from a boat in the Channel. Later the skull-and-crossbones DJs had unmusical encounters with a boarding-party of creditors and also with a sandbank.

JONATHAN SALE

Nice music, shame about the dancing

BELLINI'S OPERAS will still be flourishing when Doug Varone's dances have long been consigned to merciful oblivion. I keep telling myself this to quieten the anger inspired by the last piece in the triple bill he brought at the weekend to the Woking Dance Umbrella. *Bel Canto*, he calls it, but from the ludicrous over-amplification imposed on the recording, "Canned Belto" would be a more appropriate description. Luckily, at this volume Joan Sutherland and Marilyn Horne are quite unrecognisable as well as incomprehensible.

What he sets his dancers doing as accompaniment to these extracts from *Norma* is even more horrifying than the ignominy he inflicts on the sound-track. I can only think that it may be meant as some kind of skit on ballet, but the sloppy style of performance makes it difficult to be sure. Anyway, there are some limp grounds *battiments*, much fidgeting with the hands, a lot of flat-footed slummocking around, and a couple of male

DANCE
DOUG VARONE
NEW VICTORIA THEATRE
WOKING



pas de deux – the one featuring short, tubby Varone and the even more thickly built, wrinkled Larry Balm is particularly camp. Both these gentlemen are much given to grinning at the audience, so that you know they think themselves real comics.

Bellini and John Adams are quite a contrast, and I suppose that the work Varone staged to Adams's *Pearl Symmetries* was meant seriously, but it looked entirely vacuous as the eight dancers came on two by

two, performed a few apparently arbitrary steps, and vacated the stage for the next couple. Later there were more of them visible at once, and they speeded up a bit, but what all this had to do with the score never became clear. Varone calls this piece *Rise*, maybe he is trying to take a rise out of us.

The opening work had been less troublesome. Titled *Let's Dance*, it is set to a potpourri of popular songs, including the likes of George Gershwin and Jerome Kern, recorded by Benny Goodman, Ella Fitzgerald and Woody Herman among others. So at least there was something pleasant to listen to, and occasionally the action became mildly amusing too, especially in the lugubrious duet for Mercedes Manago and Varone to "A Fine Romance". For the most part, though, these dances were brisk, brash, energetic and empty.

And to think that Dance Umbrella brought this group all the way from New York. I wouldn't cross the street, let alone the Atlantic, to see them again.

JOHN PERCIVAL

A devilishly camp good time

A FAR corner of the underworld, crimson walls and a sky-light to heaven, the distant sound of celestial trumpets and choirs of angels. But who's that snoring in the royal box? Dark, suave, moustached; a man of substance, an aristocrat; white tie and tails. Which opera has he been sleeping through? Surreptitiously he checks his programme. It's strange that it bears his name. Stranger still that he now whistles for attention, with a clutch of demons scuffling to his aid. A ladder facilitates his unseemly descent to the stage. And then you see the tall, Mephistopheles is calling the tune.

And it's that capricious conceit that lies so squarely at the heart of English National Opera's first staging of Arrigo Boito's opera. It won't be to everyone's taste. In fact, taste doesn't come into it. Boito – Verdi's librettist on his last two masterpieces, *Otello* and *Fuotaggio* – was nothing if not audacious in his spirited adaptation of Goethe's *Faust*. The boldness (remember, this was 1868) with which he sought to knock the moral stuffing out of Goethe, to promote Mephistopheles, to exploit his williness, his cynicism, his potential as an irreverent stand-up comic – the

OPERA
MEPHISTOPHELES
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
LONDON

Archie Rice of the underworld – confounded all expectations of the day. That he bit off more than he could chew and more than his audience could swallow, that his fabulously tasteless score comes at you like a parody of every operatic cliché, is irresistible for the director, Ian Judge. He's a man after Mephistopheles' heart; sceptical, unsuited, a bit of a showman. And camp? Is he ever.

Even as Mephistopheles is enjoying his regular audience with the Almighty, the heavenly host are assembling like some Fellini-esque stunt. They sport rose-tinted spectacles (seeing the light daily can play havoc with sensitive eyes) and the very latest in gold-plated haloes and wing accessories. Boito's highly innovative Prologue is purple with choral splendour and the heavy scent of incense, its climactic paean buttressed with heaven-storming extra brass. Grand opera boasts precious little that is grander. But Mephistopheles is not about to take it seriously, and neither is Judge. No sooner has

the final chord died, when the heavenly host are brazenly peeling off their vestments to reveal themselves as prostitutes, punks and neo-Nazis. It is Easter Sunday in an unspecified German town and Mephistopheles (thinly disguised as a black friar, smoke seeping from beneath his cassock) is laughing all the way to the abyss.

I somehow doubt that Boito ever imagined that his smooth-talking, mischief-making anti-hero would, in the fullness of time, collude with so kindred a spirit as Judge. Together they look on as Faust falls for the Helen of Troy nonsense; they party their way through the witches' sabbath, mindful of its silliness. The designer John Gunter and the lighting designer Simon Corder go for the tawdry look. It's the kind of production, dare I say it, that the piece so richly deserves.

And yet, for all its vulgarity, it sounds good. Alastair Miles is the pin-striped boulevardier from hell, a quartet of naked demons somersaulting to his every whim. It's a sharp and saucy performance, characteristically well-focused vocally. David Rendall is Faust, his vocal delivery blessed with an idealistic ring. And Susan Patterson is a vocally robust, big-



hearted Margareta, caged like a circus animal for the "prison" aria, with Boito's sinuous and far-reaching coloratura boldly contradicting her physical confinement. But this is a big party for the ENO chorus, and in all their guises, they were lustily effective. As witches and warlocks they came primed with balloons and party pop-

pers, though they took all their cues from the very able conductor Oliver von Dohnanyi and not from our eponymous trickster, who at one point forced his way along the front row of the stalls recklessly brandishing an illuminated baton. What the devil did he think he was playing at?

EDWARD SECKERSON

NETWORK

Paintball is passé and golf is definitely off, thanks to the latest thing in corporate team building – playing Quake 2 with your co-workers. By **Matthew Burgess**



Game boys: members of the Berkshire Bankers and Treasurers Club at a Cybernetic Productions play group

Neville Elder

How to kill your boss and not get the sack

THE IDEA that work and play can be complementary bedfellows is nothing new. It wasn't until the "greed-is-good" days of the Eighties, though, that the more aggressive corporate bonding exercises came to the fore. Rather than a gentle game of golf with the department manager, executives would find themselves engaged in orienteering expeditions or paintball battles in order to sharpen their teamwork skills and ability to work under pressure.

Although this may have been fine for the more energetic employee, it was not so appealing to those more used to their expense-account lunches. Realising this, Paul Flanagan, who formerly worked with Citibank and JP Morgan, decided to transplant the concept into a virtual environment. Flanagan's company, Cybernetic, uses a customised version of the 3D shoot-em-up game Quake 2 on a network of high-specification PCs to provide companies with a bonding exercise that is more accessible – and less painful – than paintball, while still providing the necessary adrenalin-fuelled action.

Multipayer computer gaming is nothing new to the companies that make up the majority of Cybernetic's clientele, with the huge networks and

fast PCs at the centre of such companies' operations proving ideal for after-hours (and during-hours) gaming sessions. Indeed, it was speculated that the seminal network game Doom was the number one cause of lost working hours in the City during its popular heyday in 1995, and it was this culture that Flanagan saw as being able to provide a constructive service.

"I wanted to organise events for people from different teams and get them working together," Flanagan says. "Quake 2 is a great leveller – it relies more on mental skills and reactions, and people can just sit down and play."

Quake 2 places up to 64 players in large 3D arenas replete with buildings, passages and a variety of heavy weapons. Players can fight singly or in teams, but either way the object of the game remains simple – kill as many of your opponents as possible, and try not to die. Cybernetic has customised the standard Quake 2 program with a Capture the Flag scenario, where each team must accomplish said task while defending their own flag from the enemy. The teams (usually four to eight members) are given a map, and are also given time in which to allocate roles and dis-

cuss strategies. They are also given headphones/microphone headsets so that they can give and receive tactics and information.

Players are given a brief tutorial on how to use the game, then it's headlong into battle. It is common for the first few games to be rather tentative as people accustom themselves to the controls, though

'It's not like the usual Quake all-against-all mentality. If you go in there like John Wayne you are going to lose'

the basics can be easily mastered in about half an hour's play. After that, however, it's all down to teamwork.

"If you want to be successful in our sessions, you have to work as a team," Flanagan explains. "It's not like the usual Quake all-against-all mentality, and if you go in there like John Wayne you are going to lose. The winning teams always tend to be the ones that play together."

Alex Lanckswert, from Andersen Consulting, was initially sceptical about Cybernetic, figuring that as his team spent most of their working day in front of computers, they were unlikely to give up their evenings for what seemed to be a similar activity, especially as it was unlikely to offer the thrills of paintball.

However, after a few hectic hours on the virtual battlefield he had changed his opinion enough to recommend the game to his team as an equally stimulating and enjoyable alternative to paintball. Lanckswert took a group of 35-40 people from England and Sweden, who had been working together "virtually" for six months but had spent little "real" time together.

"It was extremely interesting to watch the different teams operate: some would spend a great deal of time discussing defence and attack plans, while others just waded in," Lanckswert says. "The headset was a key piece of equipment. At times, the communication channels were jammed with consultants shouting instructions. On one occasion there was an eerie silence throughout the whole game and the performance of the team reflected this lack of communication."

The City is by no means the only large, competition-driven institution to recognise the potential of computer games in training its workforce. The US Marines used a version of Doom to train infantry fire teams. Modified to include real-life weapons and scenarios, Marine Doom proved an invaluable way to beta-test and refine battlefield tactics before embarking on costly real-world exercises.

With the advent of more and more graphically lifelike games, Cybernetic is promising experiences of ever-increasing realism.

Due later this year is Quake 3: Arena, which includes avatars (in-game characters) with individual facial characteristics. Cybernetic claims that it will be able to map the faces of their clients on to these characters, allowing put-upon employees to take revenge on their bosses with a few well-placed shotgun blasts.

The downside, however, is that the office assassin also loses anonymity. Those who wish to curry favour with their bosses would do well to hold their fire – repeated harassment with automatic weapons is fairly good grounds for instant dismissal.

Cybernetic:
<http://www.cybernetic.co.uk>

BYTES ANDY OLDFIELD



INTERNET EXPLORER 5.0 made its debut last week, with Microsoft's chairman, Bill Gates, saying that it will be a major part of the Windows 98 Second Edition upgrade, due in the autumn. Gates said the browser was part of Microsoft's mission to spread the Web lifestyle – "taking the Internet combining it with great software and turning it into the most powerful tool of all time".

The company's IntelliSense technologies have been extended into the application to help reduce the time spent in routine tasks. Its caching methods and rendering engine are faster than in the previous version. Microsoft claims that it is up to 60 per cent faster than Netscape Navigator 4.5 at displaying pages. Search facilities have been enhanced and, playing catch-up with Netscape, a facility to show sites related to the current one has been added. A toolbar gives easy access to Internet radio stations without the need for third-party software.

IE 5.0 was released for Windows 3.1, 95, 98 and NT, as well as Sun's Solaris and Hewlett-Packard's HP UX versions of Unix. An upgrade version for the Macintosh will be available in the autumn, but there are no plans for a Linux version.

APPLE COMPUTER last week launched the latest version of its operating system for servers, Mac OS X Server. It went on sale at \$499, almost half the originally announced cost, as Apple targeted Linux with the software, which has its roots in the NeXT operating system.

Steve Jobs, Apple's interim CEO, said the new operating system using Apache software and Apple hardware can handle more web connections per second than comparably priced machines from Dell, running either Linux or Windows NT. He also said that Apple was getting on the open source bandwagon by releasing core parts of Mac OS X Server source code to enable developers to write more effective applications. "If we all work on this together, we can make a better product than any one company by itself," explained Jobs.

The release marks the start of Apple's two-tier strategy for operating systems. Echoing Microsoft's use of Windows and Windows NT for different markets, Apple will release a consumer version of Mac OS X later this year.

MOBILE PHONES and the Internet featured prominently at the CeBIT trade show in Hannover last week. Symbian, the British-based alliance between the world's largest cell phone manufacturers, announced that Sun's Java technology would be a standard feature of the operating system in its new generation of mobile communications devices. The Symbian-member Psion demonstrated some products running Java and said that it would be releasing them in the second half of 1999.

Motorola, another Symbian member, demonstrated its latest models and said that next year all its mobile phones would have Internet browsing

functions built in. Intel used the show to unveil its Pentium III Xeon Processor. The company's fastest microprocessor is designed for mid-range and high-end servers as well as workstations. The launch version runs at 500MHz. A 650MHz version is expected next month.

AOL COMPLETED the acquisition of Netscape Communications following clearance by the US Department of Justice (DOJ) and a vote last week by Netscape shareholders. The deal was worth about \$4.2bn when announced last November, but the final value to Netscape shareholders was based on the price of AOL stock, which has increased by 140 per cent since then, making the deal worth about \$10.1bn. Detailed operational plans for the combined company and a related alliance with Sun are expected to be released this week. Microsoft said the decision, and subsequent creation of an Internet giant, make the DOJ's ongoing anti-trust case against it irrelevant.

DETAILS OF the consent order agreed between the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and Intel on the eve of an anti-trust trial were released last week. Intel was accused by the FTC of being a monopolist, illegally withholding products unless customers signed away intellectual property rights. The consent order bars Intel from severing business ties with customers who sue it.

"If you have an intellectual property dispute, Intel cannot cut you off," said the FTC's chairman, Robert Pitofsky. However, if a customer sues Intel and seeks an injunction to prevent the company from selling its chips, Intel is free to withhold samples and technical information that the customer needs to stay in business.

Pitofsky said that achieving a balance was important and that no company would be permitted to shut down the other.

"This gives a framework for handling these disputes with our customers," said Peter Detkin, the associate general counsel of Intel.

The commission voted to accept the proposed consent order for a 60-day public comment period, after which it is expected to make it final.

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS last week became the first company to start mass production of 256-megabit dynamic random access memory (DRAM) chips. Although the same size as current 64 and 128-megabit DRAMs, the faster and higher-capacity chips will increasingly be used in memory-hungry high-end PCs as well as servers and workstations. Samsung said it will make 2-3 million chips this year, worth \$200m to \$300m in revenue.

E-commerce policy requires more than quick thinking

IN BETWEEN sorting out the Irish peace process and denouncing dodgy European Commissioners, Tony Blair has found time to put his 10 pence worth into improving the lot of the online bargain-hunter. The Prime Minister has set the target for the UK to be the best environment for electronic trading by the year 2002.

Since more than 25 per cent of UK Net users have already shopped online, it would appear that e-commerce is doing pretty well without Tony's blessing. However, the Department of Trade and Industry has published a list of intended e-commerce legislation, and invites your comments by 1 April. It's good to see that the Government has discovered "web time", although the three-week consultation period is better suited to Silicon Valley

venture capitalists than to Whitehall bureaucrats.

Up for discussion is the legal and technical process for the roll-out of electronic signatures (simply an electronic equivalent of manual signatures). If the very idea makes your eyes glaze over, spare a thought for the poor sods in the online sales business. They have to cope with a plague of "test" orders and "I've changed my mind" orders, or "I would like to pretend for 10 minutes that I want to go to New York" orders (a popular therapy among online travel shoppers).

Many online travel services are troubled by customers who book the cheapo flight to New York, then change their minds and cancel half an hour later. Meanwhile, the online travel agent assumes this ticket is sold, and takes it off the

availability lists to avoid double-booking. By the time the customer has cancelled, the agent has missed the opportunity to sell the ticket to somebody else.

However, if electronic signatures were legally binding, the customer would be held accountable for orders and would take the process more seriously. This is a problem not just for online travel agents but for any fast-moving stock – CDs, clothes, books, hardware.

So the Government seems to be making the right point. Sorting out the electronic signature process would make bargain-hunting more enjoyable, as you would be sure you were looking at all the available items, not just what was left after the "testers" had taken the best offers. A solid system for electronic signatures would also allow



EVA PASCOE

'It's good to see the Government has discovered 'web time'

you to get credit online (at the moment a written signature is the legal requirement), which is handy if there's something you like, but the pay cheque is weeks away.

The problem with the Government's proposal, though, is that it appears to

be slightly schizophrenic. On one hand, the Government understands the necessity of electronic signatures, and is willing to support an agreed cryptography solution (that is, the technology behind the electronic signature encoding process). On the other hand, it wants new powers for law enforcement agencies to gain access to encrypted data. They want the police to be able to break encrypted messages if criminal activity is suspected.

The Government fails to understand that electronic signatures are tools of trust between customer and merchant. Inviting the police into that closely guarded relationship would be stretching that trust beyond what most people are prepared to accept. If I shop on Amazon.com, I don't particularly want the police

to know about it. I'm happy for Amazon to sort out a digital signature system, but not to share that with law enforcement agencies, for fear of potential abuse of the system.

The technical aspect of electronic signatures will also be a major discussion point, as hackers abound and most sophisticated encryption systems can be broken, given enough computing power and hackers' talents for exposing code weaknesses. The Government correctly suggests that the law in this case should be technology-neutral, and recommends that licensed certification authorities be set up to offer that technical solution. But the very idea of a private authority holding data on my finances makes me shiver, as this situation is certainly open to abuse.

But hey! Who said that the future would be easy? The issue of electronic signatures must be resolved, but it also must be debated so we don't choose unworkable solutions. Giving three weeks' consultation time on such a complex issue seems a bit mean considering the implications.

Meanwhile, I personally would like to see the Government delivering on the promise that 25 per cent of its own dealings with citizens will be done online by 2002. I don't know how many weeks I have been carrying my council tax payment around in my bag, never quite posting it off. If I could pay that bill online, though, the Government would have saved a lot of money that is now being spent chasing me (and countless others like me).

If that "chase money" went into developing online tax collection, we would have a nice budget for a cutting-edge governmental e-commerce system.

Submitting my general tax assessment online would be another wish, and paying the TV licence fee is on my list as well. So it seems the Government has its work cut out without venturing into tricky areas such as electronic signatures. But it is no doubt more fun writing White Papers than slaving away on specifications for an online tax collection system. Meanwhile, if you want to comment on the proposal for electronic signatures, check out <http://www.dti.gov.uk/CII/elect/elect.com.html> and mail your comments to: Stephen de Souza (sec@cid.dti.gov.uk), eva@never.com

JP 11/03/99

Just like the Oscars ... almost

The annual Internet awards may lack the glamour of Hollywood, but the red carpet still gets rolled out. By Richard Kelly Heft

HE'S SLIGHT, gap-toothed and polite to a fault. Britain's Colin Needham may not look like a celebrity, but in the world of the Web he is surely a superstar. Needham, managing director of the Bristol-based Internet Movie Database, picked up an armful of hardware at the Webby Awards in San Francisco.

The Webbies - Internet equivalent of the Oscars - crowned the world's best websites in 22 categories, ranging from the arts to humour and politics, on Thursday night.

With the millions of sites up for consideration, simply landing among the finalists is a major achievement. Needham's IMDB won a remarkable three Webby Awards: one for his Internet Movie Database site (<http://imdb.com>), voted best in the film category, and

two more for his work on the Amazon.com site, which acquired IMDB a year ago.

Needham also came up with one of the cleverest lines of the night - no small feat given the five-word limit on acceptance speeches. "I'm King of the World... Wide Web," he said. Afterwards Needham's arms grew shaky holding his three peculiar-looking, spring-shaped Webbies while talking to reporters. The IMDB site has now won the film category three years in a row.

"I'm just a guy who likes movies who happened to have a website," said Needham, beaming like a crowned beauty queen.

Organisers clearly hope that the Webbies will eventually attain an Oscar-like cachet - but some recognisable faces in the crowd might

help. The red carpet was rolled out, searchlights beamed into the sky, there were even paid groupies swooning and hooting for anyone who marched into the city's Herbst Theater.

The big problem, though, was that no one knew any of the movers and shakers of the industry, and the star judges, including Francis Ford Coppola (film), David Bowie (music), Richard Branson (travel) and The X-Files' Gillian Anderson (weird) were all no-shows. "They declined to come," said the director of operations, Claudia Smucker, who added helpfully: "They're here in spirit."

But while the celebs may have snubbed the event, there is little doubt about that it is gaining momentum and a profile. Just two years ago the Webbies were being

held in a local night-club called "Bimbo's". This year it drew more than 3,000 guests, filling the decidedly posh Herbst Theatre downtown. A gala bash was held across the street at the newly renovated City Hall.

It's no accident that the city of San Francisco offered up its legislature for the affair. New York's mayor Rudy Giuliani, spent the year trying to woo the Webby organiser Tiffany Shlain to the Big Apple. San Francisco's mayor Willie Brown, who took a few jabs at New York in his opening speech, pledged the city's support to keep the Webbies in town.

Since the inauspicious early days, the awards have clearly gone mainstream. Balloting this year was audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers and sponsors included those corpor-

ate bluebloods Visa, Levi's, Entertainment Weekly and Time Digital.

Still, the event seems to have retained some edginess. The crowd was sprinkled with guests wearing everything from 'Thirties vintage brocade dresses and pillbox hats to aqua-blue Marge Simpson wigs. Statuesque Suzy D, aged 24, a massage therapist and part-time Internet broadcaster, secretly videotaped the pre-awards party - including the words and image of one man who propositioned her - through a miniature camera clipped to a floral headpiece. The entire event was covered live on the Internet, naturally, and the hidden camera - the same kind used by the FBI - was used to spice up the coverage.

"I just wanted to make this interesting," said Chris Courtney,

principal of 1st Byte, which provided the video streaming. "Can you imagine just broadcasting this party? What a bore."

The ceremony itself was remarkably efficient. With its five-word acceptance speeches lasting an average of 3.6 seconds, the awards were handed out in a blur.

Certainly the most bizarre incident of the night happened during the acceptance of first award, won by Jodi.org in the Arts category. Representatives, who had apparently travelled from Barcelona for the ceremony, stormed the stage and angrily shoved a hapless cameraman. Their words to the world: "Ugly commercial sons of bitches".

Other winners included in the News category CNN Interactive, which beat out the finalist BBC

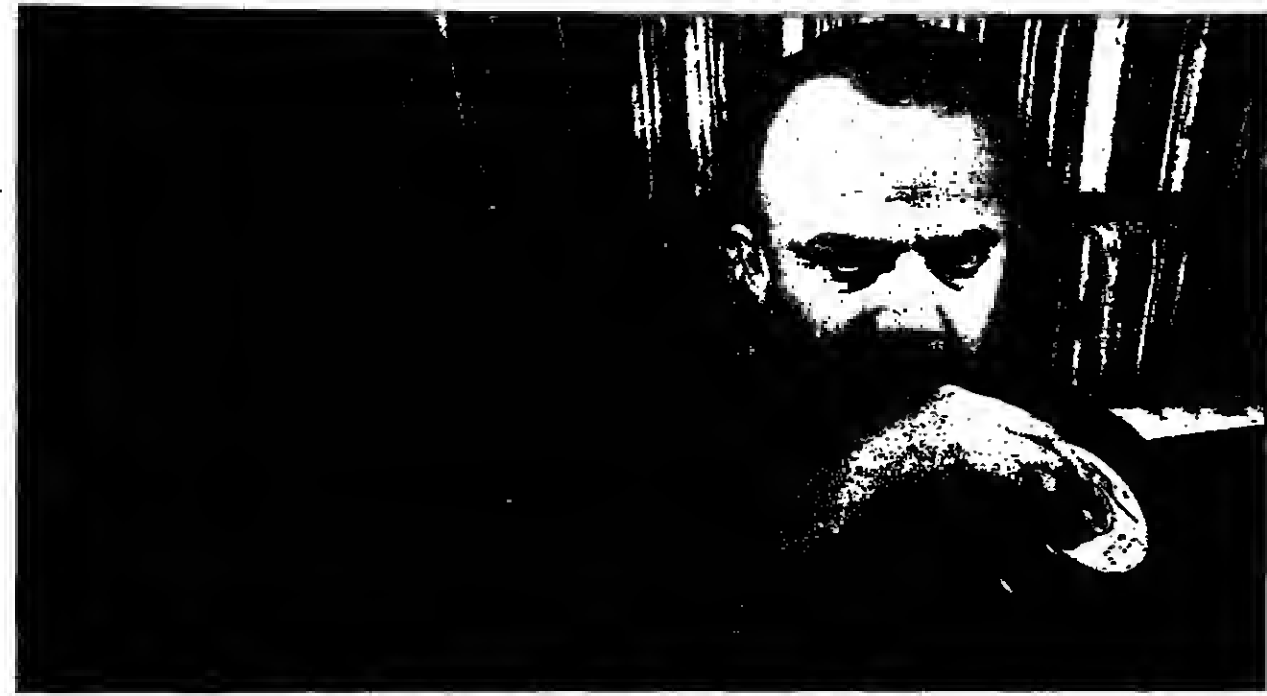
News Online, and Sportspages.com, which beat out the UK's SoccerNet in the Sports category.

The "Weird" class has become the most anticipated award of the evening. Like the best film for the Oscars, it is the last announced and receives the most attention. Up against some truly bizarre competition, Superbad (www.superbad.com) beat out Disinformation (www.disinfo.com) and the traditional favourite Absurd (www.absurd.org).

Superbad's acceptance speech was about as nasty as the fluffy kitten featured on its site. "Thanks a lot," said the site representative, who avoided a still-recovering cameraman. "This is nice."

A full list of Webby Award winners is at www.webbyawards.com.

MY TECHNOLOGY



John Peel: 'It is the only thing I take with me everywhere. It's a bit of a joke, really' Tom Pilsner

A spin doctor's friend

John Peel on the little bit of plastic that's always in his pocket

WITHOUT AN insignificant-looking, tiny piece of plastic, I wouldn't be able to play many of my most-liked records. The small, circular gadget slots into the centre of the record and makes it the right size.

It's the only thing I take with me everywhere. It's a bit of a joke, really. I always say it's like being a doctor, and you take your stethoscope everywhere. I like to imagine an "is there a doctor in the house?" situation with a DJ. If it ever happens, I will be there.

It's one of those things, like the back of your knee, which seem to have no name. The reason why a lot of records have holes to large is partly because of the jukebox; the record would have a big hole punched in it so that it could fit this different type of turntable.

An individual one is called a "spider", and is a very fragile little piece of plastic that can be

put in the centre of a record permanently. There is the big central column that the record rests on, and it fits on the middle silver bit that sticks up, and fills the hole. There are quite a few turntables that circumvent the plastic circle and have one that's built into the turntable, and pops up if you need one.

Of course, my favourite bit of technology is deemed unnecessary because so many records are transferred on to CD these days. The CD sound is a deconstructed and re-assembled sound; it is bright and brittle and too glossy. I think you lose out, particularly with old 45s, and a lot of records that were originally recorded with that medium in mind. I think of the surface noise as battle scars honourably won, patterns on a painting. Suffice it to say, I go out of my way to buy

records, and always check to see whether something is available on vinyl. It's cheaper, too. But the plastic hole-fill was essential when I used to do DJ gigs. These days, with the personality DJs, all of their records are transferred to Mini Disc, so they don't handle the music. But I often found myself plunked in front of a turntable that didn't have the pop-up piece in the middle. Nightmare. So from those days I have carried one around with me. It's always in my right-hand trouser pocket, so now you know what to do if ever there is a case when I am unconscious and a record must be played.

I have tens of thousands of records that are put wherever we can find a space. There is a sort of a system, but the sheer volume of stuff coming in means that it breaks down quite regularly.

At home, I have industrial-

strength equipment. Obviously, I am not looking for something too sophisticated, because of the sheer volume of work it has to do. You can't have fancy gear when you are using it for 12 hours a day.

We have a little studio in the house, and it's where we do live programmes for Radio 1. It would not be identified as a studio, it hasn't got sound proofing or anything, and looks like a rather elaborate home stereo system. I don't know how to use it - my grasp of technology is zero. I know that Broadcasting House dials a number and if they have done it correctly then the light flashes and I am on air.

INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER RODGER

John Peel's Radio 1 programme can be heard on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10.10pm

There's more than one way to link your hypertext

THE H in HTML stands for Hypertext. Although it may seem like a new concept, hypertext is an idea that in fact started out as a philosophical dissertation that was first proposed in the Sixties by Ted Nelson. He developed a philosophy around the idea that our comprehension of what we read is dependent not only on the knowledge of the author, but also on the knowledge of the reader. Nelson realised that for readers to understand a text fully, they needed a way to explore the "metatext" of the document - the details of any reference found within the text. At the time, this seemed impossible. Although you could add footnotes, there was only so much room on the printed page. Even then, footnotes could only go so far.

Today we take the idea of hypertext for granted. We link our documents together in the huge metatext of the Web with hardly a thought to the power this medium gives us to change the very nature of the way in which we communicate and think.

In the past, I have discussed what hypertext is (www.independent.co.uk/1998/02/01/stories.htm) and ways of designing better hypertexts (www.independent.co.uk/1998/02/17/stories.htm). One problem that I encounter when trying to design hypertexts is understanding how to structure the content and links. This week, I would like to explain four ways I have found to structure hypertextual links. Some methods might seem strange and counterintuitive, but they have the potential to open new ways of communicating and understanding information. You can check

WEB DESIGN



JASON CRANFORD TEAGUE

Hypertext offers us new ways of understanding information

out examples of these different forms of hypertextual linking at my website (www.webbedenvironments.com/examples/61.html).

Linear linking structure: In a way, linear linking, where there is only a single link that takes the reader to the "next" page of content, is not really hypertextual. Although it allows the visitor to move between different pages, this merely mimics pages of a book and prevents the visitor from exploring content except in the order you want them to see it. This defeats the purpose of having a medium that should free readers of the need to follow a path predetermined by the author. Still, for portraying certain kinds of information - for example, where what is being presented builds upon information that has to have been previously viewed - this may be your best solution.

Related linking structure: This is probably the most common form of linking on the Web and is the style that most closely mimics

footnotes. With related links, the author sets up hypertextual relations to other Web pages or sites that contain additional information about the content being presented. The author can add any number of links from their content to other supporting content, but the links must be selected carefully so as not to send the reader off on a wild goose chase.

Tree linking structure: The traditional method to add structure to your site beyond a straight line is to create a tree structure, where the visitor can select their path through your information. Hypertextual tree structures remind me of those "choose your own adventure" books I read as a child. You would read a few pages, then choose the action of the protagonist. Depending on the action you chose, you would go to different pages. The narrative was, in effect, linear, but readers could choose the path that suited them best. For websites, this works by giving the reader several links to choose from on a page. These links take them to one of many possible "next" pages rather than the single next page of the linear link structure. They then proceed through the site, weaving their own web.

Fractal linking structure: With the tree linking structure, we think of each page in a website as a discrete "bundle" of information, complete in and of itself, linked to other discrete bundles. With fractal linking, however, a "summary of the information (or abstract)" is first presented. Each portion of the content will then contain a link to the same information, but in greater detail. Then, each portion of

content on those pages will contain links to increasingly detailed explanations of what was presented on the previous page.

Imagine you are writing a fictional story. Normally you would write out the story from beginning to end in a linear fashion. However, if you were to write the story in a fractal fashion, you would write out the entire story in a few short paragraphs, not going into much detail on any particular point in the story. A reader can read this to get an overview of what has happened. Let's then say that you mention a conversation between two characters in one of the paragraphs of your story. The reader can click on a link and read the conversation. Within that conversation, then, let's say you mention some object that your characters were discussing. The reader could click on a link to see a more detailed description of the object. As the reader moves away from the first "page" of the story, the story becomes increasingly detailed.

This system can work well for presenting highly detailed business reports and scientific studies. The reader can read the abstract to get the full (but limited) report and then follow links to magnify particular portions of the report for a more thorough explanation of the content. The resolution of the information is left to the author.

Jason Cranford Teague (jason@webbedenvironments.com) is the author of "DHTML for the World Wide Web". Visit his website, Webbed Environments (www.webbedenvironments.com), for an archive of this column.

WEBSITES

BILL PANNIFER

Star Wars
<http://www.starwars.com/>
Some 3.5 million downloads were claimed for the latest "Phantom Menace" trailer within five days of its appearance at the official Star Wars and Apple sites. This despite it being a QuickTime exclusive, unlike the multi-platform "teaser" which was launched a few months ago. The two-and-a-half-minute epic is just the latest stage in the determinedly digital strategy for George Lucas's saga: test digital projection screenings will take place during the US release starting in May, and the next title in the series, early next year, may be shot electronically, with long-term plans to download the whole thing to cinemas by satellite. Meanwhile, lawyers are

clamping down on copyright infringement, but not so far on the inevitable web parodies, such as Park Wars: the Little Menace (<http://sabbath.com/~menace/specialedition.htm>) which unofficially enlists the whole South Park crew. Kenny, of course, continues to meet his usual fate.

Kubrick Multimedia Film Guide
<http://www.lehigh.edu/~pj2/kubrick/>
Speaking of teaser trailers, that disconcerting Cruise-Kidman-Kubrick footage is, unsurprisingly, now floating around on the Web, sometimes in rather dubious contexts. No sign of it, though, at the official Eyes Wide Shut page, which so far offers only a discreet memorial. The above site is one of the best of the Stanley Kubrick pages, and like the director himself leaves the interpretation of his films to the viewer, offering mainly images and sounds from the movies themselves. Other sites are even more reverential ("the Man, his

Films, the Genius", "The Master Film-maker"), while one offers a trivia quiz: "Name at least three films which feature saliva coming out of a character's mouth." A dedicated newsgroup, alt.movies.kubrick, recorded the dismay of fans at the recent news of the director's death; the group's archive, The Kubrick Site, (<http://amk.spc.dmae.cc.ia.us>), is a mine of information on everything from Nietzsche's contribution to 2001 to the precise technical details of a bullet's "full metal jacket".

BollywoodWorld
<http://www.bollywoodworld.com/>
Hokey for Bollywood, on this showing still in the best of health despite the predations of international TV satellites

and video piracy. *Kuch Kuch Kooti Hai* seems to have swept the board at the recent Indian film awards, and the veteran actor/politician/minor daily Amitabh Bachchan's latest, *Lal Badshah*, has just been released. Rani Mukherjee and Govinda shared some "very relaxed vibes" on set recently, but are not having an affair of course! Along with all the gossip, there is extensive RealAudio of latest musical hits, a quiz, a history of Indian cinema since 1897, and that all-important height-of-the-stars table (Amitabh in the lead at 6'2", but Amir Khan a mere 5'7").

Park Bench
<http://www.cat.myu.edu/~parkbench/>
Though it lost out to Jodi.org at the Webbies, this site from a group of pioneer New York multimedia artists is an equally challenging, if less playful, exploration, in this case of the overlapping territory between video, web and performance art. Centrepiece is a mosaic of archived sequences created

between 1994 and now allows viewers to control the frame rate as they unravel, and includes recent pieces which merge live elements from different national locations. Other projects here include *Virtual Alice*, a mobile camera on a wheeled "throne" which can be controlled both by website and gallery visitors and thereby explore various issues to do with memory, subjectivity and surveillance. The Park Bench project itself involves placing various location-specific computer booths around the city, seemingly part artwork, part public utility.

Send recommendations for interesting, quirky or, at a pinch, cool site recommendations to webbies@dircon.co.uk

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JP 11/01/50

MONDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.9-98.9MHz FM)
6.30 Zed Ball. See Pick of the Day.
9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Jo Whitey.
2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Dave Pearce. 8.00 Larnac Live. 12.00 The "teatime" 2.00 Emma B. 4.00 - 6.30 Cive Warren.

RADIO 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton. 8.00 Big Band Special. 8.30 Jools Holland. 9.30 Mark Lammie: Shake, Rattle and Roll. 10.30 Richard Ainsworth. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.0 - 4.0 Mo Dutta.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.00 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Composer of the Week: Franz Schubert.
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Live from the Wigmore Hall, London. Donald Macleod introduces a series of recitals in the series featuring leading pianists: Joseph Kalichstein (piano). Mendelssohn: Fantasia in F sharp minor, Op. 28 (Sonata ecossaise). Brahms: Six Pieces, Op. 118 (excepted). Schumann: Kreisleriana. 2.00 The BBC Orchestra. 4.00 Opera in Action. 4.45 Music Machine. (R)
5.00 In Tune.
7.30 Performance on 3. Live from the BBC Maida Vale studios, London. Conductor Andrew Davis. Delius: Dance Rhapsody No 1; Once I Passed through a Populous City. 8.05 Delius and Yorkshire. Delius was born in Bradford, but his Yorkshire roots appear very little in his music, and he was certainly keen to escape the family business, journeying to America and eventually to France, where he settled. But the "North Country Sketches", written in 1913 and 1914, are an exception and evoke the landscape and atmosphere of the moors. Lyndon Jenkins traces the connections between the music of the sketches and the feelings Delius had for his native Yorkshire. 8.25 Concert, part 2. Four Old English Lyrics; North Country Sketches.

PICK OF THE DAY

AS A NATION wakes to find out whether playing the heritage card has worked at this year's Oscars, Zed Ball (6.30am R1) talks us through the Hollywood shebang live from LA, where a post-ceremony party is in full swing.

While still a stripling, the novelist Louis de Bernieres was greatly impressed by a recording of Dylan Thomas's *Under Milk*.

Wood, The Afternoon Play (2.15pm R4), Sunday Morning at the Centre of the World, is his bizarre tribute in kind: an evocation of the inner lives of those in Earlsfield, south London, "almost sunny, always grubby". The "characters" include Death-Wish Debbie, Thrombotic Bert and the experiment doesn't quite translate.

DOMINIC CAVENDISH



9.05 Postscript. Five programmes in which Iwan Russell-Jones looks at attitudes to the body in our culture. 1: 'The Body Zone'. At the heart of the Millennium Dome is a giant sculpture of the human body. What does this say about the role and importance of the body in society? 5.40 Tchaikovsky: Three Pieces, Op. 8. Victoria Postnikov (piano). 10.00 Voices. My Kind of Song - Sarah Walker. Mezzo Sarah Walker talks to Ian Burnside. 10.45 Moving It. Mark Russell and Robert Mark Russell go in search of esoteric soundtracks in the company of Mark Walker, editor of the Gramophone Film Music Guide. 11.30 Jazz Notes. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Richard Strauss. (R)
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today.
9.00 NEWS; Start the Week: Radio 4 at the World.
9.45 Start the Week: Radio 4 at the World. 10.00 NEWS; Women's Hour. 11.00 NEWS; Lining into Children. 11.30 King of Beth. 12.00 NEWS; You and Yours. 1.00 The World at One. 1.30 Counterpoint. 2.00 NEWS; The Archers. 2.15 Afternoon Play: Sunday Morning at the Centre of the World. See Pick of the Day. 3.00 NEWS; Money Box Live: 0870 010 0444. 3.30 The New Recruit. (R)
3.45 This Scattered Isle. (R)
4.00 NEWS; The Food Programme.

4.30 Turning World. 5.00 PM. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 Just a Minute. 7.00 NEWS; The Archers. 7.15 Front Row. Franchise Stock with the arts programme. 7.45 The Cry of the Bittern. An environmental drama by Tim Jackson. (C103). 8.00 NEWS; Men in Black: Daily Bread. It takes six years to become a Catholic priest. In the second of three programmes, Rosemary Harill meets some of the characters in and around Ushaw College, Co Durham, one of only five Roman Catholic seminaries in Britain today. She discovers what is taught and why the graffiti is in Latin. 8.30 Analysis. The Economy on the Couch. Like individuals, the economy relies on a cushion of confidence to prosper. What is this confidence, how is it generated, and who is trying to manage it? Bridget Rosewell offers some psychoanalysis to help the economy back to health. 8.40 NEWS; Nature. The Hound of Spring. Nick Baker visits Cornwall to salute the arrival of spring and to find out whether the season is getting earlier each year. There is also a chance to help with the forthcoming series of 'Springwatch'. 9.30 Start the Week: Radio 4 at the World. Jeremy Paxman and his guests set the cultural agenda for the week. 10.00 The World Tonight. With Justin Webb. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Radio 4 at the World.

11.00 Muse of Fusion. By Tanika Gupta. The Asian music scene is raw and sexy. Scratching, bhangra and rap all play their part in an exploding club scene. Froz, a talented DJ, adds poetry to this fusion of sound. After a tragic accident, he retreats to his room and nothing his sister Zabean can do will get him out. However, an important gig is on the horizon. With Nabil Boualati and Paminder K Nagra. Director Kristine Landrum-Smith. 11.30 Crossing Over. (R)
12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: Raymond Carver Short Stories. (R)
12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW
(96kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00. 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament.
RADIO 5 LIVE
(693, 909kHz MW)
6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Nicky Campbell. 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 4.00 Drive. 7.00 News Extra. 7.30 Dream Teams. Jim White meets celebrities who live for football. This week, Hunter Davies, author of 'The Glory Game', talks about his time as a Tottenham Hotspur supporter. 8.00 Teenage Fan Club. 5 Live opens up the airwaves to young football fans who have something to say about the modern game. Call free on 0500 909583. 10.00 Late Night Live. Nick Robinson sets tomorrow's agenda today. Including at 10.30 a full round-up of the day's sport, and at 11.00 a late news briefing. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Michael Mepkin. 6.30 Newsnight. 8.00 Evening Concert. Sinding: Rustle of Spring. Joseph Cooper (piano). Copland: Appalachian Spring. Los Angeles PO/Lucyarn Bernstein. Haydn: The Seasons (Spring). English Baroque Soloists/John Eliot Gardiner. Stravinsky: The Rite of Spring. LPO/Kent Nagano. Gurney: Desire in Spring. Anthony Rolfe Johnson (tenor). David Wilson (piano). 11.00 Alan Martin. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VERDI RADIO
(125, 157-120kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Evans. 8.30 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Harriet Scott. 6.45 London Calling with Harriet Scott/AM Pete and Geoff. 7.30 Pete and Geoff. 10.00 Mark Forrest. 1.00 James Maritt. 4.30 - 6.30 Richard Allen.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO
(96kHz LW)
1.00 The World Today. 1.30 Westway. 1.45 Record News. 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 Warm World. 3.00 The World Today. 3.30 Sports Roundup. 3.50 World Business Report. 3.45 Insight. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today (400-700).
TALK RADIO
6.00 Big Boys Breakfast with David Banks & Nick Ferrari. 9.00 Scott Chisholm and Sally James. 12.00 Let's Talk Soap with Tina Baker. 1.00 Anna Raeburn - Live and Direct. 4.00 The Sportszone. 6.00 James White. 1.00 - 6.00 Ian Collins.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

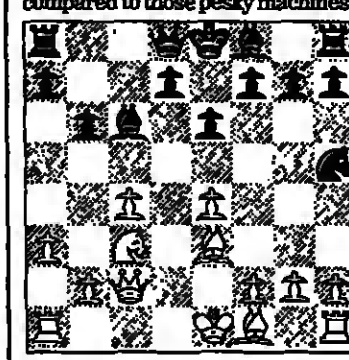
JON SPEELMAN

LAST TUESDAY when reporting on the tournament at Enghien-les-Bains I mentioned poor Viktor Bogdanov's defeat in just 10 moves at the hands of Joel Lautier. While this isn't a topic I would want to dwell on too often, readers may still be interested to see how a strong grandmaster can self-destruct so quickly.

Instead of the gross blunder 8...Nxd5??, 8...Nxd5 was perfectly playable. At the end if 10...Nxd7 11 Nxd5; or 10...Qxd7 11 Bb6! exb6 12 Qxb6+ Qd8 13 Qxb7, etc.

White: Joel Lautier
Black: Viktor Bogdanov
Caro Kann Defence
1 c4 c5 6 Nf3 a5
2 e4 d5 7 d4 Nf6
3 cxd5 cxd5 8 Ne5 Nxd5??
4 exd5 Nf6 9 Qd4+ Bd7
5 Nc3 Nbd7 10 Nxd7 1-0

While painful defeats like this are extremely rare, they do occur sometimes to even the strongest players and could, from the emotional safety of the sidelines, even be taken as an affirmation of our human nature, as compared to those pesky machines.



11...Qb6 is theory in the diagram and perfectly playable. But after 11...Bd6?? 12 Qd1! Black loses a whole piece for nothing.

White: Larry Christiansen
Black: Anatoly Karpov
Queen's Indian Defence
1 d4 Nf6 8 Nxd4 Nc6
2 c4 e5 9 Nxc6 Bxc6
3 Nf3 b6 10 Bf4 Nb5
4 a3 Ba6 11 Be3 (see diagram) Bd6??
5 Qc2 Bb7 12 Qd1! 1-0
6 Nc3 c5
7 e4 cxd4

Despite this horrific defeat in the first game of his mini-match with Larry Christiansen at the knockout tournament in Wijk aan Zee 1993, Anatoly Karpov displayed one of his greatest strengths - his ability to play purely for the moment. He won the second game of their match and the subsequent play-offs.

That was a mere 12 moves! But this is a marathon compared to the shortest master games on record. This was allegedly played at a cafe in Paris in 1924. In the *Complete Chess Addict* (Mike Fox and Richard James Faber) I further discovered the story that a further dropped a tray of plates after 4...Ne3! which traps the queen since if 5 f5 Qb4+. But they add that the loser later denied the story and it's now generally believed to have been composed.

Gihand vs Lazard
Paris, 1924
1 d4 Nf6 3 dxe5 Ng4
2 Nd2 e5 4 b3?? Ne3! 0-1

This one is genuine, though - and even shorter:

White: D Djordjevic
Black: M Kovacevic
Bela Crkva, 1964
Trompowsky
1 d4 Nf6 3 e3?? Qa5+
2 Bg5 c5 0-1

BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

COMPARISON TIME during a team-of-four match can be acutely embarrassing. Instead of attempting to justify your blunders to only one player, you have three critical teammates to contend with. This deal found South in the hot seat.

"We lost 690 points," started East. "I led a low spade against 3 no-trumps. Sorry! And you?" "We lost 100 points" was the reply. How can you bid a slam missing two aces?" demanded West. "Don't you play Blackwood?" It was not like that at all - North had opened One Club, South responded One Heart, and North rebid 1 no-trumps (showing 15-17 points). No problems so far but, instead of simply raising to 3 no-trumps, South had followed a circuitous route that had eventually landed him in Four Hearts.

West led ♠2 against the heart game and, after winning in hand, declarer played off ♠AK on which West played high-low to show a third trump and an interest in ruffing something. Short of a safe quick entry to hand to draw the last trump, he tried ♠J from dummy but East pounced with his ace. He was on the brink of returning the expected club when he stopped to

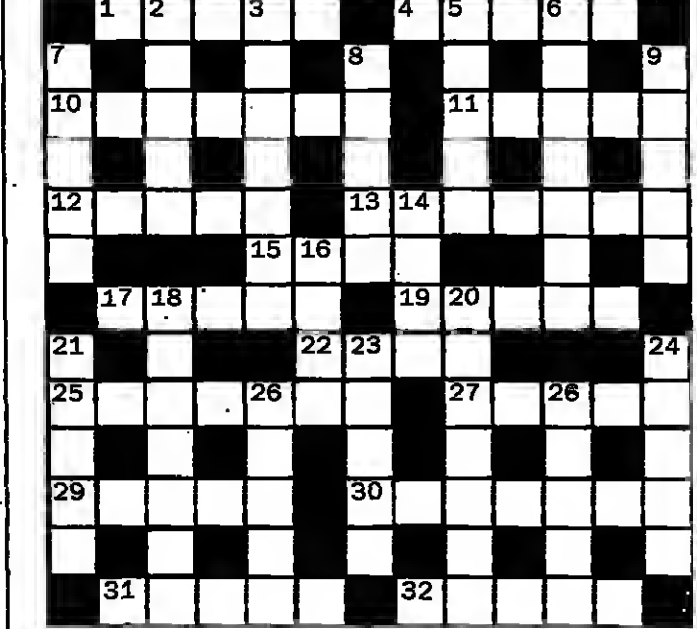
Game all; dealer North	
North	
♠KJ	
♥AK	
♦J963	
♣KQ1085	
West	
♠97432	♥A1086
♦J64	♥103
♣Q754	♠A82
♠2	♥9763
South	
♠Q5	
♥Q98752	
♦K10	
♣AJ4	

think. If his partner held ♠K, it did not matter whether they took their club ruff now or after cashing two diamonds. But if his partner held only ♠Q rather than the king, then there would be only a ruff and one diamond to come.

So instead of a club, East switched to a diamond, giving declarer a guess. He got it wrong (otherwise there'd have been 100 story) and now the defenders came to two diamond tricks, ♠A, and a club ruff to collect their 100 points.

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3876 Monday 22 March



- ACROSS**
- The makings of bread (5)
 - Marsh plant (5)
 - Shutdown (7)
 - Invalidate (5)
 - Primary (5)
 - Cut off (7)
 - Vow (4)
 - Wintry weather (5)
 - Footwear item (4)
 - Long period of time (4)
 - Fish (7)
 - Tree (4,3)
 - Dodge (5)
 - Sandy shore (5)
 - Flour (5)
 - Condensed (5)
 - Jazz piece (5)
 - Fossil resin (5)
- DOWN**
- Small (5)
 - Greedy person (7)
 - Muse of poetry (5)
 - Side of boat (7)
 - Mock (5)
 - Deserve (5)
 - Wintry weather (5)
 - Footwear item (4)
 - Long period of time (4)
 - Fish (7)
 - Tree (4,3)
 - Dodge (5)
 - Sandy shore (5)
 - Flour (5)
 - Condensed (5)
 - Jazz piece (5)
 - Fossil resin (5)

Solution to last Saturday's Concise Crossword:
ACROSS: 1. Bread, 2. Marsh, 3. Shutdown, 4. Invalidate, 5. Primary, 6. Cut off, 7. Vow, 8. Wintry, 9. Footwear, 10. Long, 11. Fish, 12. Tree, 13. Dodge, 14. Sandy, 15. Flour, 16. Condensed, 17. Jazz, 18. Fossil, 19. Resin.
DOWN: 1. Small, 2. Greedy, 3. Muse, 4. Side, 5. Mock, 6. Deserve, 7. Wintry, 8. Footwear, 9. Long, 10. Fish, 11. Tree, 12. Dodge, 13. Sandy, 14. Flour, 15. Condensed, 16. Jazz, 17. Fossil, 18. Resin.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

A FISTFUL OF DOLLARS (10pm Sky Cinema) was the film that launched Clint Eastwood (right) - and his seminal Man With No Name character - on to the world stage. Part of Sky's "Absolute Clint" season, Sergio Leone's classic spaghetti western is clearly based on the Kurosawa film, *Yojimbo*. Eastwood plays a mysterious gunman for hire who offers his services to both sides in a small-town feud. As a tribute to the film's influence,

both Leone's innovative camerawork and Ennio Morricone's wonderfully distinctive score have been widely copied. Not content with dominating sports coverage, Sky has been loudly trumpeting its coup in poaching the televising of the Oscars from the BBC. So if you couldn't make it through last night, here's what you missed at The 71st Academy Awards (6pm Sky Premier).



JAMES RAMPTON

SKY ONE
7.00 Count Duckula (50483). 7.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (3754). 8.30 Hollywood Squares (2389). 9.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (33377). 10.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (3574). 11.00 Gullit! (5538). 12.00 Jenny Jones (4907). 1.00 Mad about You (6754). 1.30 Jeopardy! (5521). 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (3344). 3.00 Jenny Jones (5344). 4.00 Gullit! (5521). 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (2978). 6.00 American Dumbest Criminals (5551). 6.30 Friends (373). 7.00 The Simpsons (3648). 7.30 The Simpsons (6067). 8.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (8374). 8.30 First Wave (3738). 9.00 Seinfeld (3502). 10.30 Seinfeld (1145). 11.00 Friends (3509). 11.30 Star Trek: Voyager (5126). 12.30 The Commish (2564). 1.30 - 7.00 Long Play (457089).

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00 Max Power (7584). 8.00 Scottish Football Kilmarnock vs Celtic (7693). 9.00 Racing News (3341). 9.30 Aerobics - Oz Style (1093). 10.00 The Show Show (1025). 10.30 Worthington Cup Final Leicester vs Tottenham (5246). 11.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (5673). 12.30 What a Weekend (2791). 1.00 Football Special Aston Villa vs Chelsea (8386). 2.30 Spanish Football Espanyol vs Athletic Bilbao (9173). 4.30 Powerboat and Jet Sport World (7388). 5.00 Max Power (4951). 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (551). 6.30 What a Weekend (2653). 7.00 Football League Review (3246). 8.00 Ford

Monday Night Football (4670). 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (28377). 10.35 You're on Sky Sports (49938). 11.00 Football League Review (5553). 12.00 Sports Centre (84255). 12.35 You're on Sky Sports (84255). 1.00 Ford Monday Night Football (3324). 1.30 Football League Review (4255). 4.00 Sports Centre (84255). 4.35 Close.

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (221022). 7.30 Racing News (42608). 8.00 Ford USA (50026). 11.00 Golf Vodka Tour (97116). 12.00 Scottish Football Kilmarnock vs Celtic (6955). 1.00 World Rugby - Super 12s Tournament (26373). 2.30 MotoGP (23474). 3.00 Super League Classics St Helens vs Gateshead (98280). 8.00 Football League Review (37007). 8.30 Powerboat and Jet Sport World (95422). 9.30 V-Max (59323). 10.00 World Motor Sport (85745). 10.30 V-Max (52355). 11.00 Total Sport (58700). 11.30 Powerboat and Jet Sport World (57678). 12.00 International Bowls Australia vs England (81534). 2.00 Sky Sports Centre (78728). 3.00 Close.

SKY SPORTS 3
12.00 Bundesliga Basketball (476448). 2.00 The Show Show (2788342). 3.00 What a Weekend (1487073). 3.00 Ford USA (47678). 6.00 The Show Show (44284). 7.00 Total Sport (44573). 7.30 Fish TV (47670).

doors (726265). 7.30 Fish TV (47670). 8.00 International Bowls Australia vs England (81534). 9.00 Sheffield Wonderful World of Golf Krol vs Chirp-Po (354270). 11.00 The Golden Age of Racing A-Z of Motorsport (5248442). 11.30 Close.

EUROSPORT
7.30 Motorcycling (5064). 8.00 Speed Staging (7429). 9.00 Cross-Country Skiing (4902). 10.30 Cart (87532). 12.00 Ski Jumping (3120). 1.30 Cross-Country Skiing (3444). 2.30 Tennis ATP Tour (3444). 4.00 Tennis (34532). 5.30 Sed Dog (600). 6.00 Figure Skating (45428). 8.30 Tennis ATP Tour (7071). 10.30 Football: Eurogoals (4272). 11.00 Rally (5277). 12.00 UK Dog (3743). 12.30 Close.

UK GOLD
7.00 Crossroads (405803). 7.30 Neighbours (84007). 7.55 EastEnders (52503). 8.25 The Bill (52503). 8.50 The Bill (52507). 9.30 Pops and Previews (55376). 10.30 Pops (34448). 11.00 Dallas (55555). 11.55 Neighbours (750884). 12.25 EastEnders (280593). 1.00 Bugs (4736). 2.00 Dallas (755945). 2.35 The Bill (52503). 3.25 The Bill (52503). 4.00 EastEnders (31087). 4.30 Rhoda (16453). 5.00 At Creatures Great and Small (738844). 6.00 Dynasty (448483). 7.00 The Comedy Alternative: Ever Decreasing Circles (762359). 7.40 The Comedy Alternative: Dark Army (6853). 8.20 The Comedy

Alternative: The Brittas Empire (222226). 9.00 Casualty (752825). 10.05 Silent Witness (50735). 12.00 The Bill (55557). 12.30 The Bill (55557). 1.00 Blackadder: Good For (338575). 1.35 French and Saunders (576780). 2.05 Dangleball (87204). 3.00 - 7.00 Shopping with Scarsdale (955304).

LIVING
6.00 Try and Crew (738425). 6.30 10 plus 2 (465235). 6.40 Goodies and the Gang (933483). 6.45 Phibert the Frog (553464). 6.50 Pops (34448). 7.00 Practical Parenting (310396). 7.05 Practical Parenting (310396). 7.10 Cullin (57555). 7.15 Big Al (763483). 7.25 Practical Parenting (575448). 8.00 Barney and Friends (75822). 8.25 Babaloo (15735). 8.30 Tiny Toons (55342). 8.35 Try and Crew (48228). 8.50 Practical Parenting (55342). 9.00 Spotted Bubbles (63848). 9.30 The Roseanne Show (75533). 10.00 The Jerry Springer Show (52938). 10.50 Merry Poppins (58070). 11.40 Brookside (230736). 12.30 Through the Keyhole (33826). 12.40 Rescue 911 (370228). 1.00 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (55553). 1.40 Merry Poppins (58070). 2.30 Spotted Bubbles (63848). 3.00 The Roseanne Show (75533). 4.00 The Jerry Springer Show (52938). 4.40 Through the Keyhole (33826). 5.30 The Heat is On (555803). 5.40 Ready, Steady, Cook (644803). 6.35 The Jerry Springer Show (52938). 7.05 Rescue 911 (45575). 7.25 Arnie Rescue (574822). 8.00 LA Law (225483). 9.00 Filles: The Substitute Wife (194) (26342). 11.00 The Sex Files I (72780). 12.00 Close.

TNT
8.00 MGM: When the Lion Roars (335300). 11.00 The Postman Always Rings Twice (194) (55533). 125 Operation Crossbow (555) (75553). 3.45 Demon Seed (1977) (55553). 5.00 Close.

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL
7.00 Jerry (555). 7.30 Grace Under Fire (642). 8.00 Elton (235). 9.30 Spin City (448). 9.40 Drop the Dead Donkey (7528). 9.50 Whose Line is it Anyway? (2325). 10.00 Frasier (5555). 10.30 Cheers (4444). 11.00 Seinfeld (3321). 11.30 The Larry Sanders Show (555). 12.00 Late Night with David Letterman (3321). 1.00 Taxi (3355). 1.30 Frontline (2075). 2.00 Dr Katz (7563). 2.30 Tits and Tails (2678). 3.00 Nightstand (6120). 3.30-4.00 Abbott & Costello (575).

TYNE TEES
As Yorkshire except 12.25 North East News and Weather (43247). 5.30 North East Tonight (5788). 11.20 North East News and Weather (43303).

WESTCOUNTRY
As Carlton except: 10.30 This Morning (443353). 12.25 Westcountry News and Weather (43247). 12.27 Illuminations (70726). 12.55 Westcountry Lunchtime Live (431388). 3.30 ITV News Headlines (44507). 3.45 Westcountry News (44507). 5.30 Animal SOS (754). 6.00 Westcountry Live (567). 11.20 Westcountry News and Weather (43383). 2.00 Film: Marooned (436058). 4.15 Box Office America (123327). 4.40 ITV Nightcrash (5804323). 5.00 Coronation Street (68236).

YORKSHIRE
As Carlton except: 10.30 This Morning (443353). 12.25 Calendar News and Weather (43247). 12.55 Home and Away (431388). 2.40 Coronation Street (68236). 5.30 Tonight (754). 6.00 Calendar (671). 11.20 Calendar News and Weather (43383). 4.15 Jobfinder (15210).

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1 IN IRELAND
As BBC1 LONDON & SE except: 8.30 Newsline 6.30 (551). 7.00 Schools Challenge (1648). 10.40 A Question of Sport (85644). 11.00 Animal Planet (27590). 11.40 Harbour Lights (68243). 12.30 Film: The Cover Girl Murders (559716). 1.55 News BBC News 24 (755292).

BBC1 SCOTLAND
As BBC1 LONDON & SE except: 12.30 Luch is Farm (Mouse and Mole) (179070). 12.35 Cram agus Rannan (Songs and Rhymes) (219071). 12.40 Paddy's Post (Postman Pat) (820837). 4.00 News (21). 6.30 Reporting Scotland: Weather (551).

BBC1 WALES
As BBC1 LONDON & SE except: 6.30 Wales Today (551). 10.00 Labour of Love (66735). 10.30 Panorama (53754). 11.10 Animal Planet (27590). 11.40 Harbour Lights (68243). 12.30 Film: The Cover Girl Murders (559716). 2.00 News: BBC News 24 (31825).

BBC1 LONDON & SE
As Carlton except: 12.20 Central News and Weather (799342). 12.55 Home and Away (431388). 2.40 High Road (552338). 5.30 Shortland Street (754). 6.00 Central News at Six (57). 11.20 Central News and Weather (43303). 4.40 Jobfinder (666217). 5.20 Asian Eye (304626).

HTV WALES
As Carlton except: 10.30 This Morning (443353). 12.25 Shortland Street (754). 12.55 Shortland Street (754). 1.00 Home and Away (431388). 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (25718). 3.30 ITV News Headlines (44507). 3.45 Meridian News and Weather (449342). 5.00 Home and Away (431388). 5.35 Three Minutes (48228). 5.50 A Weekends Work (754). 6.00 Meridian Tonight (687). 11.20 Meridian News and Weather (44782). 11.35 Prisoner Cell Block H

HTV WEST
As Carlton except: 10.30 This Morning (443353). 12.25 Meridian News and Weather (449342). 12.55 Shortland Street (754). 1.00 Home and Away (431388). 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (25718). 3.30 ITV News Headlines (44507). 3.45 Meridian News and Weather (449342). 5.00 Home and Away (431388). 5.35 Three Minutes (48228). 5.50 A Weekends Work (754). 6.00 Meridian Tonight (687). 11.20 Meridian News and Weather (44782). 11.35 Prisoner Cell Block H

MERIDIAN

**ROBERT
HANKS**
TELEVISION RE-



you CAN'T TOUCH! pile and he can't defend, but, once in a while, it pays to get your hands dirty. As part of "Pier and clothing," a short season of programmes about the far right in Europe, Neil Fraser embarked on a journey to the Pier, Right Seat B1823. In Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Austria and even back home in Britain, he met people who think that the Holocaust was a historical "ideology," that Hitler didn't really want to kill the Jews (which sounds like a Jewish conspiracy), that Hitler's biggest and least convincing "thirty-year" blood, too pure of the "White race" is threatened by hordes of immigrants, who should all be repatriated, or, if necessary – and yes, grizzly on

get real), as when the historian and Hitler apologist David Irving was tried into death by the only reason the Jews go on about the Holocaust is that they made billions of dollars out of it, and that is the most interesting thing to have happened to them in the last 3,000 years. But Irving extracted this stunning claim from him all Fraser could think to say was "Well, yes, but wouldn't it be a contribution to the debate, I would have liked to see a vigorous defence of his position, or needed and giving some explanation of how he got that way. But Fraser was too busy hounding the totalitarian, making his own decency and attacking the subject of the film.

BBC1

5.00 Business Breakfast (7903N) **9.00 News** (7) (44657), **6.00 Kinky** (5) (72305551) **9.45 Wopod** (5) (8345418), **10.10 The Vernase Show** (5) (7271989), **10.55 News, Regional News, Weather** (7) (5877377), **11.00 Change The Time** (5) (3807754), **11.25 Carri Cook, Worst Cook** (7) (73784613), **11.55 News**, **Regional News, Weather** (7) (7735551), **12.00 Call My Bull!** (5) (85005), **12.30 Top 10 Challenge** (5) (4318209), **12.55 The Weather Show** (5) (7) (54362209), **1.00 News**, **Weather** (7) (77754), **1.30 Regional News and Weather** (82020894), **1.40 Neighbours** (5) (7) (35343442), **2.05 Inonda** (5) (6535057), **2.55 Through the Keyhole** (5) (7) (3635562).

3.25 Children's BBC, Playdays (5) (5) (600594), **3.45 Podge and Duggie** (5) (7) (6563725), **3.55 Badger and Bumble** (5) (7) (6513620), **Anthony and (5) (7) (873925), 4.20 The Litteral Pea Shop** (5) (7) (554445), **4.35 Merry Gals** (5) (7) (355087), **5.00 Newsround** (7) (7) (447878), **5.40 Blue Polar** (5) (7) (8134702).

5.35 Neighbours, **Aimee** tries to come to terms with her hardships (5) (7) (811322).

6.00 News, Weather (7) (241).

5.30 Regional News (7) (655).

BBG

8.50 Joyride (2734347), **6.58 Four Towns** and a **Come** (5954281), **12.00 Childstar**, **B&B**, **Pen** (B), (2746352), **7.05 Rehabilitation** (S), (5655372), **7.20 Inv. Inv.**, **Private Eyes** (2732359), **7.48 Sex Factor** (S), (5613527), **8.10 Dr. Adams** (S), (5604005), **8.40 Rocks**, **Shots** (282754), **8.50 Jumper**, **Jump** (S), (5658989), **9.00 Space Ark**, (S), (2707254), **9.40 Short Circuit** (S), (402882), **8.30 Writing and Pictures** (S), (5657335), **8.40 Storyline** (S), (5659292), **10.00 Rehabilitation** (S), (738377), **10.30 Words and Pictures** (S), (2839454), **10.45 Watch** (S), (503893), **11.00 Look and Read: The Legend of the Lost Sea** (S), (3085349), **11.20 20 Zigs: Environmental - Water, Air and Land** (S), (3900454), **11.40 Landmark** (S), (5635445), **12.00 Job Bank** (S), (745831), **12.50 History File** (S), (5917342), **12.50 World**, **Land** (8822), **10.00 Jumper**, **Jump** (S), (5650894), **1.00 The History Hour** (S), (5654513), **2.10 Sporting Green** (5652294), **2.40 News: Regional News: Weather** (5652294), **2.46 News of Their Day** (S), (7142849), **3.02 News: Regional News: Weather** (446670), **3.30 The Village** (S), (2745522), **3.45 Keys** (S), (522435), **4.25 News: Steady Cook** (S), (5931036), **4.45 Esther** (S), (596537), **6.30 Whose House?** (S), (7702).

ITV Carlton

6.00 GMTV (55962208). **B.25** *Tea* (s) (T) (6721638). **10.00** *This Morning* (T) (57338209). **12.30** *Your Show* (T) (75593542). **12.50** *ITV Lunchtime News Weather* (T) (4005357). **1.25** *London Today* (T) (413389). **1.25** *Leary Springer Show* (s) (T) (6976560). **2.10** *Home at Last* (s) (T) (65222558). **2.40** *Vines of Fortune* (s) (67330459). **3.40** *ITV News Headlines* (T) (6555890).

3.50 Children's ITV. **Mopelot's Shop** (45987725). **3.50** *Kipper* (S) (T) (6544948). **4.40** *The Adventures of Captain Jack* (s) (T) (6454394). **4.45** *Big and the Cockroaches* (s) (T) (5817027). **4.50** *The Street* (s) (T) (67330460). **4.50** *Politeguests* (s) (T) (T) (67330461).

5.00 Home and Away (s) (T) (6280).

5.30 London Bridge. *Winn* is a (airing) unorthodox look at the wedding (s) (754).

6.00 London Tonight. *Regional news update for the capital and the South-East* (T) (667).

6.30 ITV Evening News Weather (T) (919).

Channel 4

B.00 Sasame Street (fr) (69x48), **7.00 The Big Break** (12x37), **5.00 Schools** (fr) (62x79), **11.50 Taste of It** (fr) (7x42), **(S) (T) (R)** (8x42), **12.50 Sasame Street** (fr) (7x79), **12.50 Switched** (fr) (S) (T) (42x20x19), **1.00 Rescue** (41x89), **1.50 Little Gans** (UK) (31x42), **1.3 The Phoebe Project** (65x30x45).

1.50 FILLIN' PITTIN' (Mark Robson 1954-). So-so romantic comedy that is about as amusing as the silliest title, Jack Lemmon and Judy Holiday play an attorney and his script-writing wife who get a quickie divorce while things aren't going smoothly. The title refers to sound at a shifting market. By the way (7/75)25B(30).

3.30 COUNTRY LOU! (T) (67x) 4.00 Filbert to One (S) (67x2), 4.30 Countdown (S) (T) (68x72x54), 4.35 Mon Williams (T) (68x80x45).

B.30 Pet Rescues. Highlights include a couple of silly pet and baby-the puppy, who is reunited with his long-lost brother. (T) (68x).

B.00 Roseanne. Joan Collins makes a guest appearance as Fernie, Roseanne's rich and snooty cousin. (fr) (S) (T) (20x).

B.30 Hollywoods. Cheater youth. The milt-market held by Leslie and Friz is ruled by a purple velvet. (T) (22x).

Channel 5

6.00 6 News and Sport (340434, 7.00) **WideWorld** (R) (S) (T) (R75367) **7.30 Wildlife** (S) (228993) **7.45 Winaze House** (R) (463782) **8.00 Heraldoz** (R) (S) (248034) **8.30 Dappleddown Farm** (R) (S) (248978) **9.00 Was** (S) **Good for You?** (R) (S) (235232) **9.58 Russel Grant's Potatoes** (R) (404946) **9.30 The Open Whiffy Show** (R) (368303) **10.20 Sunset Beach** (S) (235605) **11.10 Letzaz** (S) (269185) **12.00 5 News** at Noon (S) (T) (248352) **12.30 Family Affairs** (S) (T) (188764) **1.00 The Bond and the Beauliff** (S) (T) (R76238) **1.30 The Roseanne Show** (S) (R60025) **2.00 100 Per Cent Good** (S) (R74974) **2.30 Good Afternoon** (S) (234342).

3.30 ~~TELE~~ A Time to Triumph (Noel Black, 1988 US). An everyday tale of a woman who is forced to become a helicopter pilot after her breadwinner-husband has a heart attack. (Easts working at the supermarket, I suppose.) (T) (235935).

5.20 5 News (S) (R741993).


5.30 100 Per Cent (S) (2088622).

6.00 5 News, Including First on Five. National and International news with Kiaty Young (S) (T) (208573).

6.30 Family Affairs. Where did Gaby spend the night? If you care one bit, where did Gaby spend the night? (S) (T) (208573).

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HISTORY PROGRAMME OF THE DAY

descendants of the mutators who embellished the *Burnt* still the son Pichler's island, a desolate, isolated island of rock skiers in the middle of the South Pacific. These include Tom Christian, a man with a rather notorious girth, groin, and groin. This film reveals the bloody and twisting history of Pichler in the work of a team of Australian archaeologists. The two mutators brought their own downfall. It emerges, with a colonial militancy in their Polyester co-operations, the Europeans started out both the women and the land, but eventually got their just deserts.

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

For playing such favorites as the theme from *The Godfather*, the group was hired by the FA to bring them to the 1998 FA Cup Final at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, Wales. By the end of the film, in classic rock-and-roll style, tensions and musical differences are resolved. After the tournament, the ensemble is seen celebrating for its first corporate banquets and perhaps the winning a million dollars for a bunch of bladders who play hit drums at football matches.

FILM OF THE DAY

33am Ca. *(g/m)* Little-screened, so the tale goes - Lewis Allen a welcome late-night airing. performance as a psychiatrist has been hired to fatally inter- ing trip in the sleepy town of St. e in the hours before the big c- ard his cohorts commander of the station. James Gleason worst support as the invaded